Happy New Year Mon Valley!

THE Valley INDEPENDENT

An Edition of the TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Schedule to change

The Steelers had an easy schedule this year. But with the division crown in hand, changes are coming. **1B**

Valley Health

Dr. Anant J. Gandhi has received the Nathaniel Bedford Primary Care Physician Award. **6B**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2008 RELEVANT, RELIABLE WWW.VALLEYINDEPENDENT.COM 50¢

Candidates top 2007

Clinton and Obama are anything but traditional. And what about the Russians?

By RICHARD ROBBINS
For The Valley Independent
rrobbins@tribweb.com

The year 2007 will be remembered as the time a woman and an African-American made serious runs for the presidency as well as for the re-emergence of Russia on the world stage, several local history professors said in a year-end review.

According to Elaine Parsons, assistant professor of history at Duquesne University, Sen. Hillary Clinton is running for the White House more like a man than a woman – a by-product of the feminist movement of the 1960s.

Parsons, who teaches the undergraduate course American Women in History, said two broad streams define the women's movement in U.S. history.

The first, advanced by 19th century feminists, said women deserved the vote because they were different than men – less corrupt, more nurturing and less declined toward war.

The second strain, popularized by such mid-20th century feminists as Betty Friedan, held that women deserved the same freedoms as men because they were the same as men.

Stressing strength of character and a muscular foreign policy, Clinton is squarely in the Friedan camp, Parsons said.

Only occasionally does Clinton allude to her gender on the campaign trail, according to the professor.

"Her arguments are not" materially different from those of her male counterparts, Parsons added.

Both Clinton's candidacy and the campaign of Sen. Barack Obama demonstrate the power of multiculturalism in U.S. society, Parsons said.

A specialist in 19th century U.S. history, Parsons said it is ironic in a historical sense that Clinton and Obama would emerge as presidential candidates at the same time, given the antipathy held by such early feminists as Susan B. Anthony against blacks getting the vote before women.

(See TOP, Page 2A)

The Valley's early today

The Valley Independent is coming to you earlier than usual today.

That's because our afternoon paper is being delivered as a morning publication today so our family of employees can enjoy New Year's Day with relatives and friends.

Because of our early press run, our sports section is missing many of the scores you regularly read in *The Valley*.

Also, our business office will be closed today, although circulation service calls will be taken from 7 to 9:30 this morning. Customers with service problems should call (724) 684-2600.

We will resume our normal publication schedule Wednesday.

INSIDE TODAY

Edwards peaking

Democrat John Edwards has parlayed years of grass-roots campaigning into momentum when it counts the most. **5A**

Year reviewed

Over the past year, prominent politicians put their defense attorneys on speed dial. **5A**

SPORTS

Oddsmakers off?

Brian Herman cannot believe that oddsmakers in Las Vegas are viewing the upcoming Steelers-Jaguars game as an even match. **1B**

JayPa not ready

Not that he's ready to retire just yet, but Joe Paterno claims his kid is not yet ready for the Penn State job. **2B**

DEATHS

■ Cleotha Lyon, 89, Springfield, Mass., formerly of Donora

Page 4A

WEATHER

Today
Snow 22°
Tonight
Snow 35°

Page 2A

INDEX

Celebrity Cipher	6B
Classified	7-8B
Comics	4B
Dear Abby	7A
Deaths	4A
Health	6B
Lottery	5A
News Roundup	5A
Opinion	6A
Sports	1-3B
Television	7A

Two sections, 16 pages

TOMORROW

Read Valley Business, which appears each Wednesday in *The Valley Independent*.

©2008 The Valley Independent

6 47397 60440 6

Work week growing longer

Some feel pressure to spend extra hours on the job to impress their bosses.

By JOE NAPSHA
For The Valley Independent
jnapsha@tribweb.com

Photocopier technician Timothy Hutson, of West Mifflin, recalls working extra hours for a previous employer, sometimes being on call 24 hours a day, and once logging more than 80 hours in a week.

"It was a grind. It causes you to lose out on too much," of family life, said Hutson, 47, who has a wife and 7-year-old son. "They can pay you overtime, but they can't give back all those things that you miss."

Americans are putting in more hours at work, about 42.5 hours in 2006, compared to about 37.5 hours in 2003, according to time-use surveys by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The extra hours are a result of fewer employees to do the work, fears of job security, a need for overtime pay and a hope for advancement, experts say. Drawbacks include an impact on health and quality of life and burnout.

"Forty hours a week is the golden standard," for a workweek, said Nagaraj Sivasubramaniam, associate professor of leadership and change management at Duquesne University's John F. Donahue School of Business.

Men have seen their average work week increase to about 45 hours in 2006, up from an average of about 40 hours in 2003. Women worked slightly more than 40 hours in 2006, an increase from 35.1 hours in 2003, the time-use surveys found.

"A very significant percentage of those are in small business and they work much longer hours," Sivasubramaniam said of those working 40 or more hours per week.

Americans like to think they are hard workers, but they fall way behind workers in Peru and Korea, roughly half of whom work more than 48 hours a week, according to the "Working Time Around the World" study released in June by the International

(See PRESSURE, Page 2A)

Jeff Pikulsky/The Valley Independent

Dolly Apessos, of Carroll Township, gets a head start Monday on her New Year's resolution to continue early morning workouts at the Tri-County Plaza Curves in Rostraver Township.

People resolve to *try* to stick to resolutions

Some Valley residents say the entire process is an exercise in futility.

By JEFF PIKULSKY
Staff Writer
jpikulsky@tribweb.com

It's one thing to make a New Year's resolution, but sticking to it is altogether something else.

The Valley Independent went out Monday morning to find out if residents had any special commitments for the New Year.

Charleroi resident Steve Anders is hoping the ninth time will be the charm.

For the last eight years, Anders has pledged to smoke less and exercise more -- with little success.

Anders said his past efforts worked "for a couple of weeks," but hoped this year would be different.

Meghan Matson, of Rostraver Township, said she fell short in past attempts to quit smoking and lose weight.

So this year, her resolution is more practical.

"Just get through the year," she said.

Matson said she still plans to cut back on smoking.

Robin Nicodemus, of Rostraver Township, said she wants to step it up in the gym.

Nicodemus, a member at the Center for Fitness Health, said she is working out just a couple times a week and would like to shoot for four or five weekly sessions.

Dolly Apessos, of Carroll Township, said she wants to continue exercising regularly in the early morning.

Apessos jokingly said her New Year's pact with herself is to "keep on breathing."

Apessos has been working out routinely for the last four years at the Tri-County Plaza Curves in Rostraver Township.

In the exercise room Monday, Apessos confessed that she has seen many New Year's resolutions go by the wayside.

"I think everybody has good intentions, but I doubt that anybody really intends to keep them," she said.

Ernie Vingas, of Monessen, said he understands the meaning of commitment but is not sold on resolutions.

Nearly every day for years, he has risen early for his daily exercise – about a half hour spent walking outdoors. But, Vingas said he doesn't require a resolution to stay motivated.

"Who keeps 'em?" he said, smiling, of New Year's resolutions. "You say you're going to do this or that, then tomorrow you're back doing the same stuff."

> "Who keeps 'em? You say you're going to do this or that, then tomorrow you're back doing the same stuff."
>
> ERNIE VINGAS

Paula Cardarelli, of Perryopolis, said this year would be her first shot at a New Year's resolution.

Cardarelli retired three years ago from a 35-year career as an elementary teacher in the South Allegheny School District.

Her goal is to "be more organized in everything."

"It's like I fell apart," she said of her retirement days. "I have to get my life back and be professional again."

Missing man's fate new year wish for family

By STACY WOLFORD
Staff Writer
swolford@tribweb.com

Christal Waggoner's only wish for the new year is closure for her family.

The Monongahela woman said her family has been at a standstill since the disappearance of her grandfather, Vernon Hayden.

Hayden, 71, of Elizabeth Township, was reported missing Dec. 10.

His disappearance, and the subsequent arrest of his step-grandson, Timothy Large Jr., for stealing his truck, has devastated the close-knit family.

"It's just been horrible, for all of us," Waggoner said. "We just want to bring him home so we can say goodbye properly."

Waggoner said the family has little hope her grandfather is alive, based on the information provided by Allegheny County police.

Allegheny County Police Assistant Superintendent James Morton said last week that divers searched the river near the Monongahela aquatorium because detectives received information that Hayden's body might be there.

Detectives and state police are continuing to pursue leads in Somerset County, where the cap to Hayden's pickup truck was found.

Large Jr., 30, of Forward Township, is accused of stealing his grandfather's truck and wallet.

Police started looking at Large the day Hayden went missing.

Large admitted to taking Hayden's truck and wallet Dec. 8 and using the

(See MISSING, Page 2A)

VALLEY PEOPLE

Bush to change gear in last year

The president wants to forge a Mid-East peace agreement.

By The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas – President Bush's final-year agenda is a stripped down list of what he can realistically hope to accomplish, because the clout he once had is fading away.

Bush will venture to four other continents, get more involved than ever in trying to forge Middle East peace, and continue to command two wars that assure his relevancy to the end. As Iraq improves, he must now deal with renewed violence in Afghanistan and upheaval in Pakistan.

At home, Bush will try to extend two domestic achievements that are dear to his legacy – the No Child Left Behind education law, and tax cuts that otherwise expire in 2010.

Long gone are the big ideas of Social Security and immigration reform, which collapsed on Capitol Hill. His final State of the Union speech in late January is expected to reflect today's policy reality, eschewing new initiatives in favor of unfinished proposals.

As at any time, Bush has forces pushing against him. But the ones in 2008 are stronger.

A hostile Congress awaits the president. Bush and the Democratic Congress clashed all year on the war, spending, health care and tactics for interrogating terror suspects.

"It's going to be a year of angst and struggle – more of '07," said James Thurber, an American University political scientist.

In political terms, Bush's last year in office is really less than 12 months.

Attention has shifted to those who want his seat in the Oval Office. The Republican nominee for president could be settled by the multistate primaries on Feb. 5, meaning someone else will be unofficial head of the party.

The opportunity for legislation in the election-year will be short, too, as little is expected to get done after Congress adjourns for a summer break. Democrats are gunning for the White House and the bigger majorities they need to govern Congress as they want.

Bush's year begins with a nine-day trip to the Middle East, a hands-on peacemaking venture that could shape his legacy – a word that Bush and his senior aides don't use.

Starting Jan. 8, the president is scheduled to travel to Israel, the West Bank, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

The trip is exactly the kind of process-driving diplomacy that Bush has avoided in the past, said Jon Alterman, a Mideast expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. It reflects how his presidency has gone, Alterman said, as Bush once talked of bold transformation but now tries to shepherd more incremental progress on site.

Yesteryear

The Charleroi Hilltop Athletic Club was a haven for area boxers for many years. This shot from the early 1960s comprises, front row, from left, Sam Sellers, Mike Belski, Dwight "Lucky" Williams and trainer Bruno Pucci; and back row, Dane Crosby, manager George Humphries, Rich Cecella and Robert "Jo Mo" Ingani.

If you have a good old-time photograph, send it to us at Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa., 15062.

Weather

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
High 25 Low 15	High 28 Low 22	High 38 Low 22	High 42 Low 30	High 45 Low 30

State, local governments can cut ties with Darfur

In an unusual move, the president hopes to force an end to violence in the African nation.

By The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas – President Bush signed legislation Monday to allow states and local governments to cut investment ties with Sudan because of the violence in Darfur.

The bill permits state, county and municipal officials to adopt measures to divest their government investments from companies involved in the four sectors that provide vital revenue for Sudan's government – oil, power production, mining and military equipment.

"I share the deep concern of the Congress over the continued violence in Darfur perpetrated by the government of Sudan and rebel groups," Bush said in a statement.

Bush's administration has raised objections to letting state and local governments adopt divestment policies that delve into foreign policy, a traditional federal role.

The president noted those concerns again Monday. Nevertheless, he agreed to signed the bill, which was approved with strong support in Congress. Bush said the bill "risks being interpreted as insulating from federal oversight state and local divestment actions that could interfere with implementation of national foreign policy."

He said the Constitution gives the federal government authority handle foreign relations, and that the "executive branch shall construe and enforce this legislation in a manner that does not conflict with that authority."

The aim is to pressure Sudan to ease suffering in its Darfur region.

Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed and millions driven from their homes in four years in the Darfur region since ethnic African rebels took up arms against militia supported by the Arab-dominated central government.

Top (FROM PAGE ONE)

If anything, Russia returned to its historical roots in 2007, according to Robert Dodge, professor of history at Washington & Jefferson College.

Once America's Cold War adversary as the Soviet Union, Russia struggled from insolvency to flush times thanks to a booming oil market.

In the process, Russia under President Vladimir Putin became a politically authoritarian state, quite a change from the days when it was hailed as an emerging new democracy.

"We shouldn't be surprised," Dodge said. "Russia always has been inclined to strong individual leaders and centralized government."

Dodge, a Russian expert, said the U.S. should expect "tense" times with Russia in 2008 over "particular issues", but nothing so serious as to risk a military confrontation.

One constraining influence, he said, is the foreign investment the Russian government needs for the country's surging economy.

Joseph Heim, a professor of history and political science at California University of Pennsylvania, said "the big thing" in 2007 was the National Intelligence Estimate that Iran halted its nuclear weapons four years ago.

"It means the United States has to engage (in talks) with Iran," Heim said.

Peering into his crystal ball, the professor said Iran may be a better bet for the U.S. in the Middle East than long-time ally Saudi Arab.

"The Saudis export homegrown terrorists," Heim said. "While not totally free, Iran does hold elections."

Americans confronted as never before the issue of privacy in 2007, as information technologies, including YouTube, reached new heights of popularity, said Michael Cahall, an assistant professor of history at Duquesne University.

Cahall, whose courses include Individualism in American History, said "It's a lot harder than ever before to have a sense of privacy, especially since we are all so connected with one another through cell phones and the like."

Rugged individualism, once a watchword for Americans, is giving way to values that threaten both individualism and privacy, which Cahall sees as flip sides of the same coin.

The question – "How do I get away from people?" – is increasingly difficult to answer, Cahall said.

CIRCULATION

(724) 684-2600 or 1-800-564-9000

8am - 6pm Monday - Friday • Closed Saturday

Circulation.....**Linda Hutchison**
Delivery.....**Scott Sawa or Melissa Stima**
Customer Service / Billing.....**Cynthia Comet**

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT MONESSEN, PA
USPS NO. 655-720

RATES:
Home Delivery.....$2.95 per week
.....$12.78 per month
Monday - Saturday Valley Independent and Sunday Tribune Review
Single Copy.....50 cents

MAIL RATES:
3 Months.....$50.00
6 Months.....$95.00
12 Months.....$180.00

E-MAIL...valley@tribweb.com ~ VISIT OUR WEBSITE @ valleyindependent.com

MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED
NOW ACCEPTING ALL Highmark Blue Cross & Blue Shield
As Well As PPO's...HMO's, etc.
New Patients Welcome
Dr. Trotta's WELLNESS CENTER
314 West Main St. • Monongahela **724-258-5656**
Chiropractic Care With A Gentle Touch

Missing (FROM PAGE ONE)

ATM card, according to an affidavit filed to support theft and burglary charges. What happened to Hayden, remains a mystery.

Police jailed Large on a parole violation Dec. 11, when they found parts of Hayden's home in disarray and Large hiding near the pickup truck.

National City Bank officials reported that someone used Hayden's ATM card three times on Dec. 9-10. Twice, someone entered a wrong personal identification number. Another time, someone withdrew $500 from the account.

When police arrested Large in Brentwood, he had Hayden's truck keys on him along with $328 in cash. Police found Hayden's wallet and his ATM card in the glove box.

Large told police he went to Hayden's house Dec. 8 and took his wallet and truck keys from a kitchen counter. The suspect said he took some frozen food, and then left.

Large told police he dumped the pickup truck cap near Route 51 because he thought Hayden would have reported the truck stolen. The cap was found over a hillside in Somerset County last week.

Court records show Large was convicted of aggravated assault in Somerset County in 1996 when, according to family members, he shot a man in the back several times during an argument.

Large has denied any role in Hayden's disappearance.

Waggoner said she "definitely" believes foul play is involved in her grandfather's disappearance.

She said her family is dealing with the situation the best they can. Her sister, Stephanie Cinciripini, sent a poem to her detailing the emotional toll the situation has had on her.

"How can you say good-bye when there is nothing to say good-bye to," Cinciripini wrote. "We will continue to hope and pray that will we will find Vernon Hayden one day."

Waggoner said they planned on Thanksgiving to spend Christmas Day with their grandfather. His gift is still waiting for him and her four young children are having a hard time understanding why their "Pappy" isn't home.

"My son Austin had everyone in his class sign a card for Pappy and he signed it, 'We miss and love you,'" Waggoner said. "How do you explain all of this to a young child?"

Pressure (FROM PAGE ONE)

Labour Organization in Geneva, a global research agency.

In the United States, 18 percent of workers put in more than 48 hours a week, the survey found, which was the fifth-highest percentage among developed countries. The United Kingdom was first with about 25 percent of workers exceeding 48 hours a week.

The study, which examined working conditions in 50 countries, found that attempts to reduce working hours failed for various reasons because companies sometimes use overtime to boost production and workers want to earn more.

The 40-hour "golden standard" did not apply to Pittsburgh area steel mills a century ago, where the workers routinely faced 50- to 60-hour weeks. The guidelines for a 40-hour workweek did not take effect until 1945 – as a result of the Fair Labor Standards Act passed in 1938.

Working overtime brings some hourly workers 1.5 times their hourly wage rate. Sivasubramaniam said some workers, though, may feel pressured to put in longer hours because their companies have expanded but haven't added to payroll or filled vacancies.

Other workers want to show they are committed to the company, said James A. Craft, a business administration professor at the University of Pittsburgh's Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business. Workers see it as a way of improving job security, he added.

"They are willing to take on extra assignments, even when they don't want to, to show their desire to work harder," Craft said.

Professionals might think working more will impress the boss, leading to advancement and pay raises, Sivasubramaniam said.

"When he sees you working 50 to 60 hours a week, you might be on the fast track for promotion," Sivasubramaniam said.

Workers might feel the need to fit in with the organization and the culture of the company, said Bonnie Michaels, a work-life consultant from Naples, Fla., and director of Take Back Your Time, a Seattle nonprofit that supports paid childbirth and paid-sick leave legislation.

"There are expectations that are written and unwritten," Michaels said. "If everyone else is in the office at 6 a.m., then you feel you have to do the same."

Some of those long workweeks are being logged by business owners, Sivasubramaniam said.

"I usually work about 50 hours a week. Sometimes more. You never finish it in time, said Gabriel Fontana, 65, of Scott, the owner of Gabriel's Shoe Repair, Downtown.

Fontana said he likes his job.

It is the craft he learned as a young man in Italy some 50 years ago. He immigrated to Pittsburgh in 1970, where his sister was living.

"I've done this for so long," Fontana said.

More hours does not always result in more production, Sivasubramaniam said. Working excessive hours creates "presenteeism," where employees come to work sick or tired and function at a low level.

"They're afraid to take a day off," Sivasubramaniam said.

Studies have shown that people working longer hours suffer health problems, such as obesity from eating junk food, Sivasubramaniam said.

"Some day, people will wake up and say, `Do I want to make more money or do I want to like my life? I work longer hours, but do I have the quality of life?'" he added.

Hutson has been in the same business for 25 years, but he has worked fewer hours since he switched companies.

"I work less and I enjoy it more. I'm extremely happy," Hutson said.

Valley briefs

Alleged groping diverts flight here

A Seattle-area man has been charged by federal air marshals with groping a female passenger aboard a United Airlines flight that was diverted to Pittsburgh as a result of the alleged incident.

Michael L. Holland, 46, made his initial appearance before a magistrate on Monday on a charge of abusive sexual contact, according to Ted Hresko, special agent in charge of the Pittsburgh air marshals' office.

Holland had been chatting with the woman Sunday on United Flight 917, which was bound for Seattle from Dulles International Airport near Washington D.C., Hresko said.

"The next thing you know, he's groping her," said Hresko. "The flight attendants asked our (air marshals) to get involved."

Holland was handcuffed by air marshals and taken to an empty seat in another part of the plane, Hresko said. The pilot opted to divert the flight to Pittsburgh so Holland could be removed, said Hresko.

The flight left Dulles carrying 182 passengers at 6:08 p.m. and landed in Pittsburgh about an hour later. Pittsburgh airport officials said the flight continued on to Seattle at 9:35 p.m.

Holland was held overnight in the Allegheny County Jail in Pittsburgh prior to appearing before U.S. Magistrate Judge Amy Reynolds Hay.

Holland did not appear to be intoxicated when he was taken into custody Sunday night, Hresko said.

"There was no alcohol on his breath, and when he was interviewed he said he hadn't had a drink for five years," Hresko said.

Abusive sexual contact is a federal misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in prison and $1,000 fine, Hresko said.

State targeting 'Amish taxis'

The state Public Utility Commission is cracking down on operators of so-called "Amish taxis" who regularly serve as drivers for members of the religious group but are not certified to carry passengers.

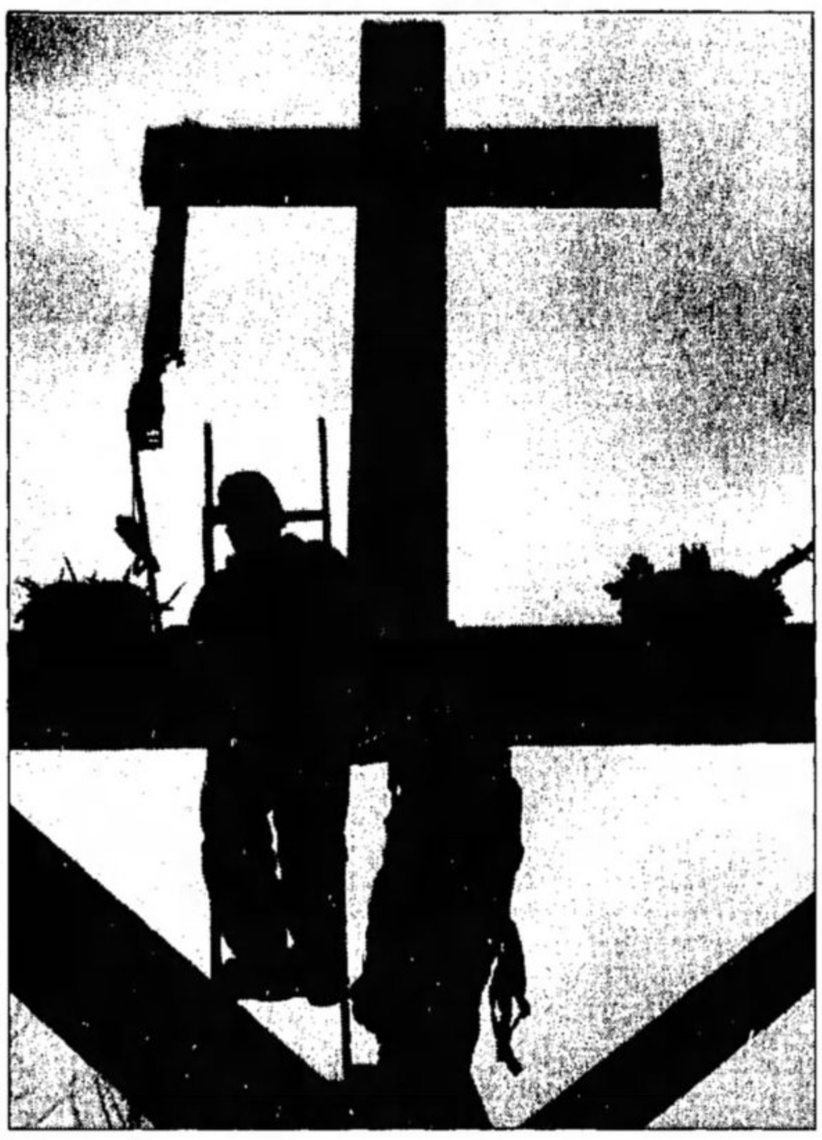
The PUC this fall began targeting the unlicensed taxis, or jitneys, serving more than 350 Amish families in Clearfield, Indiana and Jefferson counties. Amish religious beliefs do not permit driving motor vehicles.

The commission is responding to complaints, including some from drivers who paid to become state-certified to carry passengers, PUC spokeswoman Jennifer Kocher told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in Sunday's editions.

"It's different than something occasional, like taking a neighbor to a grocery store," Kocher said. "We're targeting routine trips where people who are (certified) and are following the rules are saying, 'Wait a minute here.'"

State certification for drivers to carry passengers costs a one-time fee of $350. Vehicles must also be certified, either as metered taxis or as paratransit vehicles. Commercial insurance fees vary for paratransit vehicles but can cost up to $6,000 annually, Kocher said.

Six people have obtained the required certificates from the PUC's Altoona office, which covers Clearfield, Indiana and Jefferson counties.



Church display improved

Josh Leach, left, and Jim Costanza erect 100-pound cast-iron replicas of the Sacfred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary onto the huge Miraculous Medal outside St. Anthony Church in Monongahela. The latest additions to the display were completed during the past weekend.

Motorists, illegal immigrants made state's headlnes in '07

Review of the past year also involves prominent politicians putting their defense attorneys on speed dial.

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM
Associated Press Writer

Motorists have long grumbled about Pennsylvania's notoriously potholed highways, but rarely has state government come in for more criticism over infrastructure than it did in 2007.

Between PennDOT's botched response to a freak Valentine's Day snowstorm that stranded hundreds of motorists and lawmakers' highly unpopular plan to toll Interstate 80, transportation issues helped drive the news in Pennsylvania this year. And state officials found themselves dealing with one blown tire after another.

What else got the Keystone State talking in 2007?

Prominent politicians put their defense attorneys on speed dial. Corporate profits sagged and houses took longer to sell. A mayor fought for the right to rid his city of illegal immigrants. Joe Paterno's salary was revealed. A champion racehorse, Barbaro, lost his battle to survive the horrific injury he suffered at the 2006 Preakness.

Pennsylvania had its share of lighter moments, too: NBC's hit sitcom "The Office" paid a visit to Scranton, Britain's Prince Charles and wife Camilla landed in Philly, and charities in Erie puzzled over the identity of a generous — an EXTREMELY generous — benefactor. (More on that later.)

It was one heck of a traffic jam, and it was largely avoidable.

Hundreds of motorists spent a frigid night in their vehicles last Feb. 14-15 as snow, ice and freezing rain blocked 150 miles of interstate highway in eastern Pennsylvania. Transportation and emergency officials conceded they failed to prepare for the storm, then did not respond quickly enough as the situation deteriorated. The state said it has addressed many of the communications and logistical problems that contributed to the travel nightmare.

In July, the Legislature voted to introduce tolls on Interstate 80, with the aim of raising $116 billion over 50 years for highway and bridge projects. The plan, which awaits federal approval, drew fierce opposition from business owners, residents, truckers and public officials in northern Pennsylvania. One furious resident said lawmakers viewed the rural population that lives near I-80 like "ignorant hicks" who wouldn't put up a fight.

Powerful state Sen. Vincent J. Fumo battled federal charges that he defrauded taxpayers and a local nonprofit he controlled out of more than $2 million. Among the juiciest allegations: that the Philadelphia Democrat used Senate staff to spy on his ex-wife. "I know in my heart that I have not done anything illegal," said Fumo, who has beaten two other federal raps in a 30-year Senate career.

Fumo wasn't the only state official under a cloud. A senator from western Pennsylvania, a Superior Court judge, and a former representative also faced criminal charges in 2007. Meanwhile, state Attorney General Tom Corbett began an investigation into whether legislative leaders illegally paid staffers nearly $4 million for performing election work on state time. Results of that probe are still to come.

Away from the capital, Hazleton Mayor Lou Barletta famously tried to give illegal immigrants the boot as the city of 30,000 sought to penalize landlords who rent to illegals and businesses that employ them. But a federal judge blocked the measure in July after a nine-day trial, ruling that immigration is a federal matter. While the city appeals, Barletta, who has emerged as a national figure, is mulling a run for Congress.

The state's two largest cities elected mayors in 2007. In Philadelphia, former city councilman Michael Nutter promised a fresh start after a troubled eight years under John Street; and in Pittsburgh, 27-year-old incumbent Luke Ravenstahl defeated a Republican challenger to remain the youngest chief executive of a major U.S. city.

One of the year's biggest stories — the Virginia Tech massacre — sadly touched Pennsylvania. Jeremy Herbstritt, 27, of Bellefonte, was among the victims of a suicidal student, Seung-Hui Cho, who killed 32 people in the deadliest shooting rampage in U.S. history.

Closer to home, Alec Kreider, 16, was charged with fatally stabbing three people — Kreider's classmate and the victim's parents — inside their Lancaster County home. The motive remains unclear. Kreider has pleaded innocent.

Philadelphia struggled with more than a

(See STATE REVIEW, Page 4A)

Mine safety bill coming - finally

Legislation seen badly needed for the state's approximately 8,000 coal mine workers.

By MARC LEVY
Associated Press Writer

HARRISBURG — Legislation to update the state's mining safety law is said to be nearing readiness — nearly two years after a state senator warned that foot-dragging could leave blood on the hands of Pennsylvania's lawmakers.

If it passes, it will come after Congress updated the federal mine safety law and coal-mining giants West Virginia and Kentucky updated their state laws, spurred on by several high-profile mine accidents. It will also represent the first major update to Pennsylvania's mine safety laws in the four decades since David L. Lawrence was governor.

Harrisburg's often-grinding legislative pace aside, Republican and Democratic leaders both say the forthcoming bill is a good one, and badly needed for the state's approximately 8,000 coal mine workers.

For the first time, state inspectors would be able to level fines at mines for safety infractions.

Also for the first time, a board with representatives from the state's mine safety office, the mine workers' labor union and the ranks of mine owners would be able to write new regulations that would keep the law in step with the latest in mine-safety technology.

"This will be a big step up," said Will Dando, chief of staff for Sen. Richard Kasunic, D-Somerset.

Coal mining is of particular importance to Pennsylvania.

The Keystone State had the most productive coal mine east of the Mississippi River last year, according to federal statistics

It is home to the third-most bituminous coal mines in the country and is the nation's fourth-largest coal producer.

Dando and other Senate staff aides are giving the 230-plus-page legislation a final look before it is introduced.

A vote is anticipated in mid-January in the Senate Energy and Environmental Resources Committee and Senate aides hope for final passage and a signature from Gov. Ed Rendell by summer.

They have reserved for it a symbolic bill number: Senate Bill 949, an echo of the "nine-for-nine" cry that former Gov. Mark Schweiker made famous during the 2002 rescue of nine miners at Quecreek Mine.

The bill would update safety regulations in Pennsylvania's approximately 200 bituminous mines, while repealing current law that still contains references to pack animals and precautions for miners riding on conveyor belts.

Since 2003, the Rendell administration has taken some administrative steps to address safety — such as requiring newer mine maps and equipment and rejecting a mine permit application if regulators think unsafe conditions may exist.

But those are practices that can be changed by the next governor, and bigger safety steps must be made by law, state officials say.

Without an update, most provisions for cutting-edge mine safety will be left to Congress. Even then, state mine inspectors cannot flag a mine operator for a violation of federal law, Dando and others say.

And if federal mine inspectors are stretched thin, then nothing can be done.

Still, predicting passage of any major legislation in Harrisburg is dicey.

For two years, legislators have tried to smooth over disagreements between state officials, mine workers and mine owners before moving a bill along.

"It's gone on way too long," said Patrick Henderson, a top aide to Sen. Mary Jo White, the Venango County Republican who chairs the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee.

When Kasunic introduced the Rendell administration's version of a mine safety bill, it was October 2005.

Three months later, he sat at a committee hearing on his bill — just days after the deaths of 12 miners at the Sago Mine in West Virginia — and asked for quick action on new safety measures before another serious accident happened.

Seeking exports

Do you know of someone who once lived in the Mon Valley, but moved on to forge a life elsewhere?

Is that person involved in an interesting or successful career?

If so, we would like to hear from you.

Your friend could be profiled in Valley Exports - a feature that appears every Saturday.

To submit a name, call Joe Abramowitz at (724) 684-2634. You also can email to jabramowitz@tribweb.com.

NOTICE TO ALLEGHENY POWER CUSTOMERS WITH RIGHT-OF-WAY ACROSS THEIR PROPERTY

Allegheny Power has contracted for the ground application of herbicide solutions on electric line rights-of-way in parts of southwestern Westmoreland, eastern Washington, northwestern Fayette, and southern Allegheny counties. Both the herbicide solution and the application method are specified by Allegheny Power. The herbicides are registered and approved for this use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

The application will be performed on electric line rights-of-way during the period commencing 14 days from the date of publication of this notice and extending to 45 days from the date of publication. Prior to the application, an attempt will be made to contact property owners residing on the property scheduled for treatment of woody vegetation. Additional information will be furnished during this contact.

Requests for additional information should be directed to:

S.W. Sidle
Forester
Allegheny Power
401 Coyle Curtin Rd.
Monongahela, PA 15063
Phone: 1 800 Allegheny
1-800-255-3443

"I chose WCCC...
...because everyone is friendly and helpful so I never feel out of place."

Lisa
Business Marketing major

Why should *you* choose WCCC?
If you want to prepare for a new career or upgrade your skills, but it's been awhile since you've been in the classroom, WCCC offers several job prep programs you can complete in six months or less. Plus, we offer tutoring to help you with difficult subjects. Our flexible scheduling – day, evening, classroom, videocassette and online classes - makes it convenient for working adults. And, at $73 per credit for Westmoreland County residents, WCCC is the best educational value in PA!

Build real-world skills for next week's jobs.
1-800-262-2103, ext. 4204 or www.wccc.edu

You can afford success with WCCC.

Westmoreland County Community College
An affirmative action, equal opportunity college

RECORDS

Associated Press

Fireworks explode over the skyline in Sydney, Australia, during the fireworks display just before the dawn of 2008 in one of the first places to celebrate the annual arrival of a new year.

Revelers greet 2008 with fireworks, songs

New Year celebrated in numerous countries around the globe before it arrives in the U.S.

By ANGELA DOLAND
Associated Press Writer

PARIS — A million revelers cheered fireworks in Sydney, Australia — one of the first cities to celebrate the New Year. Beijing started the year with fireworks, singing and dancing put on by the organizers of the Summer Olympics.

In France, cafes filled with the last night of cigarette smoke before a smoking ban goes into effect.

Security was tight around the world. Fireworks were canceled in downtown Brussels, Belgium, where police last week detained 14 people suspected of plotting to help an accused al-Qaida militant break out of jail. In Paris, where festivities centered on the famous Champs-Elysees avenue and the Eiffel Tower, about 4,500 police and 140 rescue officials patrolled the streets.

In Thailand, an army spokesman said he believed that five bombs set off by suspected Muslim insurgents in a Thai-Malaysian border tourist town likely targeted New Year's revelers.

The bombs, which wounded 27 people, exploded in the hotel and nightlife area of Sungai Kolok, including two inside a hotel dance club and one hidden in the basket of a motorcycle outside a hotel, spokesman Col. Akara Thiprote said.

On the other side of the globe, several European countries rang in the new year with new habits.

Starting at midnight, the smoke-filled cafe was to become a memory in France. Following up on a ban last year on smoking in many indoor locations, cigarettes will now be off-limits in dance clubs, restaurants, hotels, casinos and cafes.

People can still smoke in their homes, hotel rooms and sealed smoking chambers at establishments that decide to provide them.

Two European Union newcomers, Cyprus and Malta, start using the euro at the stroke of midnight. The Mediterranean islands, both former British colonies, scrap the Cyprus pound and Maltese lira to bring the number of countries using the shared currency to 15. Politicians will ceremonially withdraw euros from automatic teller machines after midnight, with fireworks and outdoor celebrations in the two capitals, Nicosia and Valletta.

Along with the innovations, old European traditions were maintained.

In London, people were gathering in Trafalgar Square and along the banks of the River Thames to watch a fireworks display and hear Big Ben — Parliament's iconic bell — welcome the New Year with 12 resounding bongs.

In a quirky tradition in Spain and other Spanish-speaking countries, Madrid residents planned to dine on 12 grapes — one for each chime at midnight.

Berlin was braced for a massive fete: In a stretch leading from the city's famous Brandenburg Gate along Tiergarten park to the western part of town, officials set up three stages, 13 bands, 40-yard tall Ferris wheel and over 100 beer stands and snack joints.

In Vatican City, Pope Benedict XVI took a somber note, lamenting what he called the "trivialization" of sexuality and lack of faith among young people during a vespers' service in St. Peter's Basilica.

DEATH NOTICE

LYON — Cleotha Lyon, of Springfield, Mass., formerly of Donora, on Tuesday, Dec. 25. House of Jackson Memorial Chapel, Donora.

State review (FROM PAGE THREE)

homicide a day — and a police officer, 54-year-old Chuck Cassidy, was among the victims. Gunfire wounded four other Philly officers in 2007. Gov. Ed Rendell, a former Philadelphia mayor, made an impassioned plea for gun control, but he faced staunch opposition from both Republicans and Democrats in a state where hunting and Second Amendment rights are cherished.

Amish students who survived a shooting that killed five of their classmates returned to school in a new building on April 2, exactly six months after the rampage. The New Hope Amish School sits a few hundred yards from the site of the old school, which was demolished.

In July, one of the most bizarre and puzzling crimes in recent Pennsylvania history was evidently solved. Authorities arrested a man and woman on charges they planned the elaborate bank heist that ended in the death of a pizza deliveryman in 2003. The deliveryman, Brian Wells, 46, told police he had been forced at gunpoint to rob a bank near Erie while wearing a bomb locked around his neck. As police waited for a bomb squad to arrive, the device exploded, killing him.

It was a difficult year for a trio of market-leading Pennsylvania companies.

Hershey, the nation's largest candymaker, cut 1,500 jobs and closed plants in Pennsylvania and elsewhere. Toll Brothers, the nation's largest builder of luxury homes, recorded its first quarterly loss in 21 years, and its chairman and chief executive called 2007 the "most challenging" fiscal year in company history.

Shares of Comcast, the nation's largest cable operator, tumbled to a 20-month low on news of slowing revenue growth.

Call it the $100 million mystery: A donor, known to the public only as "Anonymous Friend," gave that staggering sum to charity over the summer.

The philanthropist is as private as he or she is generous, and the few people who know the giver's identity are not telling. The money will be distributed to 46 nonprofit groups in Erie, including a food bank, a women's center, a group for the blind and three universities.

On the pop-culture front, Scranton threw a huge party for Dunder Mifflin, the fictional paper-supply company of "The Office," the NBC comedy set in the city. In October, thousands of fans descended on the city for a three-day celebration of their favorite TV show, and more than a dozen cast members made appearances.

Prince Charles took some good-natured ribbing about U.S. independence from Britain as he and his wife Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, paid a January visit to Philadelphia.

The royal couple did some historical sightseeing, visited an inner-city neighborhood and attended a concert at the Academy of Music. "I'm enormously proud to be walking in my great-great-grandfather's footsteps," said the prince, referring to the 1860 visit to Philadelphia by the future King Edward VII.

In Pennsylvania sports, Lancaster County native Floyd Landis was stripped of his Tour de France title because of a positive doping test. Bill Cowher, who led the Steelers to Super Bowl glory two years ago, retired from coaching after 15 years. Eagles coach Andy Reid dealt with heartache off the field: Two of his sons, both of them severely addicted to drugs, were sentenced to prison.

MVP shortstop Jimmy Rollins led the Philadelphia Phillies to their first division title since 1993, but the Phillies were swept in the first round of the playoffs by World Series-bound Colorado.

After a protracted court battle, one of the biggest secrets in all of Pennsylvania sports was finally revealed. Yes, we're talking about Paterno's salary.

t turns out the Penn State icon makes more than $500,000 a year — a lot of money, to be sure, but a relative bargain compared to coaches at other big-time football schools.

POLICE LOG

Charleroi

■ Two police officers foiled a burglary in progress at RTS Packaging early Sunday morning.

Police went to RTS Packaging at 3 a.m., after an alarm went off inside the building.

When Det. Lt. Jim DiSanti and patrolman Jamen Walker arrived, two suspects were hiding behind a desk in an office. Police said they were allegedly holding tools to pry open a safe.

They arrested Joshua Kefover, 22, whose last known address is 400 Cherry Drive, McMurray, and Michael Magiske, 22, of 207 Nantucket Drive, Monongahela.Both men were charged with burglary, criminal conspiracy and criminal mischief.

■ William Walker, 67, of Main Street, Pricedale, was cited for public drunkenness at 7 p.m. Friday at 7th and Fallowfield avenues, police said.

■ Dustin Banks, 29, of 32 Carson St., Charleroi, was cited for disorderly conduct at 7:15 p.m. Friday at Campy's, police said.

■ John Woytovich, 39, of 401 1/2 Crest Ave., Charleroi, was cited for disorderly conduct and harassment at 4:15 p.m. Friday, police said.

■ William Addis, 35, no address listed, was cited for simple assault and harassment at 2:30 p.m. Friday following an alleged domestic incident, police reported.

Fallowfield Twp.

The Fallowfield Township police department announced its year-end report for 2007..

The department handled a total of 2,238 calls.

The calls comprised the following: miscellaneous, 206; alarm activations, 103; ambulance assists, 158; animal calls, 18; be on the lookout calls, 114; accidents, 98; assist motorists, 42; assist other agencies, 144; check well being, 14; civil problems, 62; deaths, one; deer struck; seven; disabled vehicles, 76; disturbances, 43; DUIs, 15; dog calls, 17; domestics, 52; escorts, three; fire calls, 46; juvenile problems, 28; missing persons, three; neighbor problems, 10; prowler calls, 11; public utility calls, nine; road hazards, 77; stolen vehicles, 15; suspicious persons, 56; suspicious vehicles, 53; endangering welfare of children, one; mental health problem, 14; vacationer calls, 11; assaults, 12; burglaries, 28; criminal mischief, 43; disorderly conduct, 27; arson, one; firearms violation, five; drug act violations, 10; thefts, 94; robbery, one; scattering rubbish, three; sex crimes, four; trespassing, 27; liquor law violations, five; public nuisances, five; public intoxication, five; harassment, 52; traffic stops, 277; school details, 25; investigations, 221.

The department also handled 42 active Protection From Abuse orders; 135 traffic arrests, 104 criminal arrests, issued 135 warnings, 36 ordinance warnings and had 34 ordinance arrests.

Carroll Township

■ Several burglaries were reported at the Sawicky residence, 166 Fisher Ave.

The break-ins took place before Dec. 25 and most recently on Sunday.

Cash and other items were stolen during each burglary.

Police are investigating and asking anyone with information to call them.

■ Abdul M. Martin, 28, of 121 Mt. Lebanon Boulevard, Mt. Lebanon, was cited for harassment following a dispute at 395 state Route 88, police said.

■ Deborah M. Casson, 39, of 34 Brothers Road, Charleroi, was charged with aggravated assault, simple assault, disorderly conduct, harassment, public drunkenness and terroristic threats after allegedly hitting a doctor in the face in the emergency room of Mon Valley Hospital at 11:15 p.m. Dec. 22, police said.

■ Gregory J. Skinkis II, 22, of 206 Valley St., Monongahela, was cited for scattering rubbish along Columbia Road Dec. 24, police said.

State Legislature in session today

HARRISBURG (AP) — Because Pennsylvania's constitution trumps any state holiday, the General Assembly will convene on New Year's Day.

Both the House and Senate are scheduled to be gaveled into session because of a constitutional provision that requires the chambers to meet at noon on the first Tuesday of every year. No exception is provided for years in which Jan. 1 falls on that day.

The sessions in both chambers are expected to be brief and largely devoid of substantive business, although Sen. Joe Scarnati, R-Jefferson, is expected to be re-elected by his colleagues for another year as Senate president pro tempore.

Attendance is expected to be sparse on the last day of the holiday season, but bills can be introduced or referred to committee during the session. Lawmakers who live more than 50 miles from the capital can file for expense payments of as much as $146 for the day if they go to Harrisburg.

About a dozen of the 50 senators are expected to participate, said Stephen MacNett, chief counsel to Senate Republicans, who has served on the legislative staff for four decades.

Bill Patton, spokesman for House Speaker Dennis O'Brien, R-Philadelphia, said he anticipates only a handful of representatives will attend.

The first sessions of odd-numbered years that follow the biennial legislative elections are as much celebratory as ceremonial, so attendance is typically unanimous.

Covering slopes with powder requires more than cold weather

Mother Nature remains the most important visitor to the nation's ski resorts.

By CHRISTIAN BERG
Associated Press Writer

MACUNGIE, Pa. (AP) — The slopes at Bear Creek Mountain Resort and Conference Center were shrouded earlier this month in a swirling white cloud created by scores of snowmaking guns spewing fresh powder onto the mountainside.

Thanks to an early December cold snap, Bear Creek's arsenal of 120 snowmaking guns were humming nonstop, allowing the resort in Longswamp Township, Berks County, to begin its 2007-08 ski and snowboard season on Dec. 7.

General Manager Mark Schroetel said Bear Creek's ability to make snow so quickly is largely because of significant upgrades in the resort's electrical and water-pumping capacity that, for the first time, allow every one of the mountain's snow guns to operate simultaneously.

But even with those upgrades, Bear Creek — like every other ski area — is still dependent on the weather. And, contrary to what most people may believe, making artificial snow isn't as simple as just waiting for the temperature to drop below freezing.

Schroetel said the ability to make snow has as much to do with humidity as it does air temperature. In fact, he said, it's possible to make snow with air temperatures as high as 35 degrees — provided the humidity is very low.

"More commonly," Schroetel said, "you have air temperatures of 27 or 28 degrees and 70 percent humidity, and you still can't make snow."

Snowmaking experts at ski resorts nationwide use a measurement called "wet bulb" temperature to determine the quantity and quality of snow that can be made.

Wet bulb temperature is measured using a thermometer with a bulb that is kept wet by covering it with a moisture-wicking fabric. Water evaporating from the fabric cools the thermometer and results in a reading lower than the real air temperature.

In simple terms, the wet bulb temperature tells officials how much additional moisture can be added to the air in the form of artificial snow.

"The lower the wet bulb temperature, the more snow you can make," Schroetel said.

"If you saturate the air, your water droplets become too big and they simply won't freeze."

Although wet bulb temperatures can vary greatly depending on relative humidity, Schroetel said that generally speaking, any time air temperatures are 26 or lower, the wet bulb reading will indicate good to excellent snowmaking conditions.

In Memory Of... **John R. Ronick**

In loving memory of our beloved son and brother, John R. Ronick, who died tragically 26 years ago, January 1, 1982. The month of January comes with sad regret, it brings a day we shall never forget. A heart of gold stopped beating, two shiny eyes at rest, God broke our hearts to prove to us He only takes the best. God knows you had to leave us but you didn't go alone, for part of us went with you the day He took you home. To some you are forgotten, to others part of the past, but to us who loved and lost you, you memory will always last. It's lonesome here without you and sad has been the way, for life and home are not the same since you were called away. We loved you then, we love you yet, our hearts still ache we can never forget. Sadly missed by family and friends and all who loved him.

In Memory of David A. Zubritsky

JUNE 11, 1962 - JANUARY 1, 2002

Oh, how we long to hold you like we did when you were small. Instead, we hold your memories, so beautiful to recall. And when we get to Heaven, a smiling face we'll see. Just like on earth, you'll call to us, how happy we all will be. We'll wrap you up in our arms and hold you to our hearts. Our joy within will be complete, we'll never have to part. Love and miss you, David!!

Parents Joan & Charles, daughter Lauren, brothers & sisters

God grant to your servant, David, eternal memory & peaceful repose.

NEWS

TODAY IN HISTORY

January 1

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 1, the first day of leap year 2008. There are 365 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight

Two hundred years ago, on Jan. 1, 1808, a law prohibiting the importation of slaves into the United States went into effect.

On this date:

■ In 1863, President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that slaves in rebel states were free.

■ In 1892, the Ellis Island Immigrant Station in New York formally opened.

■ In 1898, New York City was consolidated into five boroughs.

■ In 1901, the Commonwealth of Australia was proclaimed.

■ In 1953, country singer Hank Williams, 29, died of heart failure while en route to a concert date in Canton, Ohio.

■ In 1959, Fidel Castro led Cuban revolutionaries to victory over Fulgencio Batista.

■ In 1984, the breakup of AT&T took place as the telecommunications giant was divested of its 22 Bell System companies under terms of an antitrust agreement.

■ In 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement went into effect.

■ In 1997, Kofi Annan assumed the title of United Nations secretary-general.

■ In 1999, the euro, the new single currency of 11 European countries (later 13), officially came into existence with the start of the New Year. (The euro became legal tender on this date in 2002.)

■ **Ten years ago**: A new anti-smoking law went into effect in California, prohibiting people from lighting up in bars. The Michigan Wolverines beat Washington State 21-16 in the Rose Bowl; Florida State downed Ohio State 31-14 in the Sugar Bowl.

■ **Five years ago**: More than two dozen surgeons stopped working in West Virginia to protest the high cost of malpractice insurance. Brazil's first elected leftist president, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, took office. Oklahoma romped past Washington State 34-14 in the Rose Bowl; Georgia defeated Florida State 26-13 in the Sugar Bowl; Notre Dame saw its sixth straight bowl loss, losing to North Carolina State 28-6 in the Gator Bowl.

■ **One year ago**: President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush joined thousands of other mourners in paying respects to former President Ford. An Indonesian Boeing 737 jetliner crashed, killing all 102 people on board. Ban Ki-moon became the 8th U.N. secretary-general. Grand Ole Opry star Del Reeves died at age 74. Denver Broncos cornerback Darrent Williams was killed in a drive-by shooting; he was 24. The 9th-ranked Boise State Broncos completed a perfect season with a 43-42 overtime victory over No. 7 Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl. Southern California beat Michigan 32-18 in the Rose Bowl.

■ **Today's Birthdays**: Author J.D. Salinger is 89. Former Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., is 86. Actor Ty Hardin is 78. Actor Frank Langella is 70. Rock singer-musician Country Joe McDonald is 66. Writer-comedian Don Novello is 65. Country singer Steve Ripley (The Tractors) is 58. Rapper Grandmaster Flash is 50. Actress Ren Woods is 50. Actress Dedee Pfeiffer is 44. Actress Embeth Davidtz is 42. Actor Morris Chestnut is 39. Actor Verne Troyer is 39.

Associated Press

Democratic presidential hopeful and former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards speaks during a rally in Boone, Iowa. If he can pull off a victory in Iowa on Thursday, cash and other help could come flooding in almost instantly in this high-tech political world.

Edwards says victory in Iowa would help him for long haul

Democratic presidential hopseful believes a win would trigger campaign donations.

By MIKE GLOVER
Associated Press Writer

DENISON, Iowa — Democrat John Edwards has parlayed years of grass-roots campaigning into momentum when it counts the most — just as Iowa launches the presidential nominating season.

Though he's got less money than rivals Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama, if he can pull off a victory on Thursday, cash and other help could come flooding in almost instantly in this high-tech political world.

That's if he wins. His second-place finish here in 2004 sent him on his way to the second spot on the Democratic ticket. Second place on his second try wouldn't be the same. Third place would push him back into the ranks of the 2008 also rans.

Edwards strategist Joe Trippi noted that John Kerry began raking in $2 million a day after winning Iowa four years ago, and he says Edwards could walk the same path. Rival campaigns have begun to openly worry about Edwards, after months where he was stuck in third place.

"It's just reality that if you win the Iowa caucuses, the money pours in," Edwards said in an Associated Press interview Sunday. "It's almost like you cannot process it because it comes in so fast. There will be plenty of money to run the campaign."

Edwards has climbed into a virtual tie in recent surveys and has drawn large, enthusiastic crowds on a well-trod route through the state since 2004.

Part of his gain comes with his history in the state. He began campaigning in Iowa in 2002, and didn't really stop after the 2004 election cycle, so Iowa activists know him well. They have a history of rewarding familiar faces, as 1996 GOP nominee Bob Dole can attest. Edwards will launch a 36-hour, round-the-clock marathon on Tuesday.

He's spending the closing days in smaller venues like the Beef and Brew in Mapleton, and says he feels the same movement he felt four years ago when he vaulted to a surprising second-place showing. "I can feel it and it's stronger than four years ago," said Edwards.

"Everything's very encouraging. I think more important than the polling, the tremendous energy," Edwards said Monday. "There's lots of excitement, clearly good things are happening and there's a lot of energy and momentum here in Iowa."

He spoke on NBC's "Today" show.

The former North Carolina senator, restrained from using his personal fortune by his decision to accept public campaign financing, has raised far less money and runs a smaller organization in Iowa than his chief rivals for the Democratic nomination.

No matter, he says. The presidential nomination contests are so compressed this time — "bam, bam, bam" — that strong early showings should be rewarded nationally, and a nominee produced in short order.

"The message will get heard," he said. "If you win the Iowa caucuses, you are going to be heard very loudly and clearly in these other places."

Mark Longabaugh, who did campaign work for Richard Gephardt in New Hampshire in 1988 and Bill Bradley in 2000, said the squeezed calendar means "the dynamic is dramatically different than in the past," with less time for candidates to recover from an early setback. He noted the usual gap of at least eight days between the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary is down to five days this time.

In 2000, Bradley was soundly beaten in Iowa but was able to boost his poll standings in New Hampshire by up to 10 points, making that race close, said Longabaugh.

"I can't imagine many people will be able to pull that off this year," he said.

Edwards claims he's put a "terrific" organization on the ground in New Hampshire. "We have people up there every week making thousands and thousands of phone calls."

Dante Scala, a political science professor at the University of New Hampshire, agreed.

"He's invested more resources in New Hampshire, he has more people on the ground," said Scala. "If he wins Iowa, he could gain some momentum here. He's put some roots here."

Edwards had raised $30 million by the end of September, well behind Obama and Clinton, when he decided to seek public financing. He has been certified to get nearly $9 million in public funds.

His campaign also argues that with the Internet, money can flow faster than ever, as can organization, an opportunity other candidates are intent on exploiting as well. Trippi built a high-tech financial operation for Howard Dean in 2004.

Even so, Edwards argues that the aura of a winner will be worth more than cash after Iowa.

"I don't think it's money-driven at that point," he said. "If you've been successful in Iowa, you've been successful. Free media ... will overwhelm anything anybody spends."

And he dismissed the significance of the money edge developed by Clinton and Obama.

"We're having an election, not an auction," he said. "This is going to be decided by who is the best candidate with the clearest, strongest message."

Edwards has been getting more than $2 million in help from labor-backed independent groups that have drawn criticism from watchdog organizations and from Obama in particular. The groups, called "527" organizations for the section of the IRS code that authorizes them, have been running ads supporting Edwards' policies in Iowa during the closing days of the campaign.

Appearing on CBS' "Early Show" Monday, Edwards said he has no control over those organizations — one of which is run by Nick Baldick, a Democratic strategist who managed Edwards's 2004 campaign.

"It's my understanding that the guy who runs the organization worked for me years ago. Yes, that is true," Edwards said when asked about the connection.

Edwards' campaign retained Baldick's firm earlier this year to provide political strategy consulting. Edwards spokesman Eric Shultz said Edwards was referring to Baldick's role as campaign manager in 2004.

Edwards said he might get an extra boost if he can win Iowa because it would show he clawed his way back into a race once viewed as a two-way fight.

Ron Bill Auto Body
724-684-6772
MONESSEN

Cold Laser for Carpal Tunnel Syndrome!
What is Cold Laser?
How can it help me with Carpal Tunnel?
Call 1-800-448-6581 to request FREE report.
24 hrs.

THE WORLD BRIEFLY

Housing market remains flat

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sales of previously owned homes nudged up in November, but that didn't improve the broader picture of a feeble housing market racked by record-high foreclosures and harder-to-get credit.

The National Association of Realtors reported Monday that sales of existing single-family homes, condominiums and townhouses rose 0.4 percent in November from October, to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5 million units. Even with the small increase, the pace of sales was still the second-lowest on record going back to 1999. The lowest pace — 4.98 million — was registered in October.

"There's little reason to pop open any champagne corks," said Michael Larson, a real-estate analyst at Weiss Research Inc.

To be sure, sales are down 20 percent from November 2006, underscoring the problems plaguing the housing sector.

Economists were calling for sales to either move up slightly or hold steady for November.

Home prices continued to sink.

The median price of a home sold last month was $210,200. That marked a 3.3 percent drop from a year ago. It was the fifth biggest annual decline on record. The median price is where half sell for more and half sell for less.

On Wall Street, the bump up in nationwide home sales failed to ease investors' fears about the economy's outlook. The Dow Jones industrials tumbled more than 80 points in afternoon trading.

By region of the country, sales were mixed.

Driver in crash held for homicide

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — The driver of a pickup truck that went the wrong way on an interstate and collided with a minivan, killing five people, failed a sobriety test and was charged Monday with aggravated vehicular homicide, authorities said.

The accident occurred late Sunday night when the minivan, traveling in the southbound lanes on Interstate 280 near the I-75 interchange, collided with the truck, going north in the southbound lanes, assistant fire chief Luis Santiago said.

The driver of the pickup truck, Michael Gagnon, of 24, of Adrian, Mich., was charged with aggravated vehicular homicide. Tests showed his blood-alcohol level was .254, more than three times Ohio's legal limit of .08. Gagnon smelled of alcohol at the crash scene, according to a police report.

Bits of gift wrap and toys were strewn about the highway, suggesting the minivan was carrying a family heading home from the holidays, Santiago said.

"It was among the worst I've seen," he said of the crash scene.

Killed in the crash was a 6-month-old child, a woman and three other children, Santiago said.

N. Korea ingnores nuclear deadline

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea failed to meet a year-end deadline to declare all its nuclear programs under an aid-for-disarmament deal, prompting disappointed reactions Monday from South Korea, the United States and Japan.

The three countries, along with China and Russia, have been pushing North Korea to abandon its nuclear programs in a series of negotiations that began in 2003 and finally gained momentum in 2007.

Washington and Seoul have said they believe that the overall disarmament process, though falling behind schedule, is still on track.

Pyongyang promised in February to abandon its nuclear ambitions in return for energy aid and political concessions. In October, it vowed to disable its nuclear facilities and declare its programs by the end of the year in return for the equivalent of 1 million tons of oil from South Korea, the U.S., China and Russia.

South Korean media have reported that Pyongyang has so far received 150,000 tons of oil, and the North began disabling the reactor last month with U.S. experts watching.

The U.S. expressed disappointment at the delay in the promised declaration.

"It is unfortunate but we're going to keep on working on this," said Tom Casey, deputy spokesman for the State Department said Monday. "We're still committed to getting a declaration and we want that declaration to be full and complete."

The Valley Independent LOTTERY RESULTS

PENNSYLVANIA DAILY NUMBERS

MONDAY, DEC. 31, 2007

DAY PICK 3: 2-7-3
DAY PICK BIG 4: 1-0-8-5
TREASURE HUNT: 4-9-10-11-26

NO OTHER NUMBERS AVAILABLE AT PRESSTIME

OHIO DAILY NUMBERS

MONDAY, DEC. 31, 2007

DAY PICK 3: 6-8-5
DAY PICK 4: 9-3-2-5

NO OTHER NUMBERS AVAILABLE AT PRESSTIME

WEST VIRGINIA DAILY NUMBERS

MONDAY, DEC. 31, 2007

NO DAILY NUMBERS

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of winning numbers and prize payouts. In the event of a discrepancy, the official and certified files maintained by the Pennsylvania Lottery's Security Office shall prevail.

THE Valley INDEPENDENT
Eastgate 19, Monessen
Pennsylvania 15062
Serving the Mon Valley for more than 100 years.
Telephone (724) 684-5200 Fax: (724) 684-2603 E-Mail: valley@tribweb.com

Richard M. Scaife Publisher Inc., Publisher

Robert R. Hammond
Division Manager

Robert L. Burke, *Managing Editor*
Karen Strickland, *Advertising Manager*
William H. Lieb, *Production Manager*
Linda G. Hutchison, *Circulation Manager*
Violet K. Minjock, *Accountant*

OUR OPINION

Scammers always after your money

FORTUNATELY, SANDRA REESE knows how to handle a scam.

The Avonmore woman recently received a series of calls with a too-good-to-be-true offer for cell phone service. Even after she declined the sales pitch several times, the calls kept coming. The voice on the other end of the line was willing to give her a free phone and a service contract for the low price of $39.90 a month.

All she had to do was provide her Social Security number.

These nine-digit numbers are the holy grail for scammers. With them, they can access an unimaginable amount of personal and financial information. That data can then be used to wipe out bank accounts, ring up credit charges and generally destroy the financial standing of victims.

Fortunately, Reese was too smart for this con game. When she got her fifth call, she told the purveyors of the fraud that she had talked to Sprint and was about to turn the matter over to the Better Business Bureau.

Before Reese finished her threat, she heard a click on the other end of the line.

Although scammers are busy year-round, federal agents say activity intensifies around the holiday season. Offering someone a great deal in order to learn a Social Security number is among the most common scams. Another is handing out counterfeit checks that people are persuaded to cash, but only after paying a fee.

"People always hear 'buyer beware.' That's still true," said Postal Inspector Barbara Burnhauser, the new team leader for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Financial Crimes Task Force. "Now, even educated people are falling for them."

We advise anyone who gets a call similar to Reese's to proceed with extreme caution. The same holds true for anyone who gets an outrageous offer in the mail or over the internet. Be especially careful if you win a contest you didn't enter, and don't give out your Social Security number unless you know for sure who you're talking to.

Do yourself a huge financial favor — don't make life easier for the scammers.

ANOTHER VIEW

Williamsport Sun-Gazette on leasing the Pennsylvania Turnpike:

Gov. Ed Rendell, citing drawbacks and mounting opposition to the Interstate 80 toll plan, appears poised to take another shot at his plan to lease the Pennsylvania Turnpike to raise revenues for highway and bridge improvements. We say go for it, governor.

Rendell says he hopes to soon publicize how much funding could be generated by leasing the turnpike.

To date, the administration had not yet received a private bid from a company to pay for a long-term operating lease of the 359-mile turnpike. But that's only because the Legislature turned a cold shoulder to the plan last summer before the idea had a chance to build momentum.

A similar plan already is paying great dividends in Indiana and solving much of that state's transportation problems. We are much more confident in this as a solution as opposed to tolling I-80 and dealing a crippling blow to residents, the freight industry and a multitude of companies, large and small, throughout the northern half of Pennsylvania.

How to reach us

The Valley Independent welcomes the input of our readers. Letters, e-mails and faxes must be signed and should include an address and daytime telephone number so the content of the message can be verified. (Phone numbers will not be published.)

Send your comments:

— By mail to Your Opinion, The Valley Independent, Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa. 15062.

— By e-mail to valleyletters@tribweb.com

— By fax to (724) 684-2603.

All messages are subject to editing for clarification, brevity and libel. Messages should be kept to 300 words. (No poetry, please.)

While letters usually are published in order of submission, those concerning timely local issues are given priority.

New Year's resolution: End 'hyperpartisanship'

Morton **KONDRACKE**

Suppose Sen. Barack Obama (Illinois) wins the Democratic nomination and picks Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel (Nebraska) or Independent New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg as his running mate. Or suppose Sen. John McCain (Arizona) wins the GOP nomination and picks Independent Democratic Sen. Joe Lieberman (Connecticut) as veep.

Suppose even further that, over this year's holidays, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and President Bush resolve that next year they'll really try to live up to the pledges they made in early 2007 to work across party lines to — as they all said — do the problem-solving work voters elected them for.

Is it all fantasy? Perhaps it is, given the hyperpartisanship of contemporary politics. Yet every poll on the subject indicates that Americans are fed up with their politicians' incessant tribal warfare and inability to address problems everyone agrees are becoming more serious from inattention.

If the two parties' presidential nominees reached out across party lines to pick their running mates — Obama and McCain seem the likeliest to do so — it would serve as dazzling notice that times were changing.

It would be even more astounding if congressional leaders and Bush could decide that, instead of repeating the dismal, few-achievements record of 2007, they'd resolve to solve at least one major problem in 2008 — say, pass tough but compassionate comprehensive immigration reform.

Over the holidays, America's political actors — and observers — would do themselves and the country a favor by reading Ron Brownstein's new book, "The Second Civil War," whose subtitle begins to tell it all: "How Extreme Partisanship Has Paralyzed Washington and Polarized America."

Brownstein, formerly with the Los Angeles Times and now political director of Atlantic Media Co. publications, vividly describes the historical origins of "hyperpartisanship," a term he borrows from a sometime practitioner of it, former Republican National Chairman Ken Mehlman.

More importantly — Brownstein eloquently laments the consequences of the disease and offers some fascinating remedies, some derived from former President Bill Clinton, whom he interviewed at length.

Brownstein doesn't suggest picking vice presidents across party lines. Those are my radical imaginings — though they are derived from conversations with participants in presidential campaigns.

Brownstein has this right: America is the richest, most powerful nation on Earth, but its leaders can't agree on a plan to reduce dependence on foreign oil, can't balance the budget, can't provide health insurance to a sixth of its population, can't align its promises to retirees with its ability to pay the cost and can't agree on strategies to combat Islamic terrorism.

Why not? Because solutions to these problems require bipartisan "grand bargains" that polarized politicians are unwilling to make.

"Our politics today encourages confrontation over compromise," Brownstein writes. "The political system now rewards ideology over pragmatism. It is designed to sharpen disagreements rather than construct consensus. It is built on exposing and inflaming the differences that separate Americans rather than the shared priorities and values that unite them."

Brownstein puts primary blame on conservative Republicans for the rise of "warrior" politics, especially former Speaker Newt Gingrich (Georgia) and House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (Texas), Bush and his former guru, Karl Rove, and their allies on talk radio.

But he observes that Democrats are catching up in hyperpartisanship, flogged on by MoveOn.org and leftist bloggers. Mainstream media, too, encourage conflict over consensus. And the public has become ideologically "sorted," as well, making the GOP more conservative, Democrats more liberal and moderates torn.

Brownstein gives rather more credit to Clinton than I would as a model centrist. He was that on policy — the "Great Triangulator" — but his personal misdeeds, slipperiness and tendency to respond savagely to threats made him as divisive as Bush, the "Great Polarizer."

But how can we end the war and engender vigorous, substantive debate that leads to consensus? Brownstein recommends that states banish closed primaries and allow registered independents to participate in picking candidates.

He also advises that political leaders look to a growing corps of cross-interest coalitions — such as the Business Roundtable, Service Employees International Union, AARP and National Federation of Independent Business — working to develop consensus solutions to problems such as health care and entitlement reform.

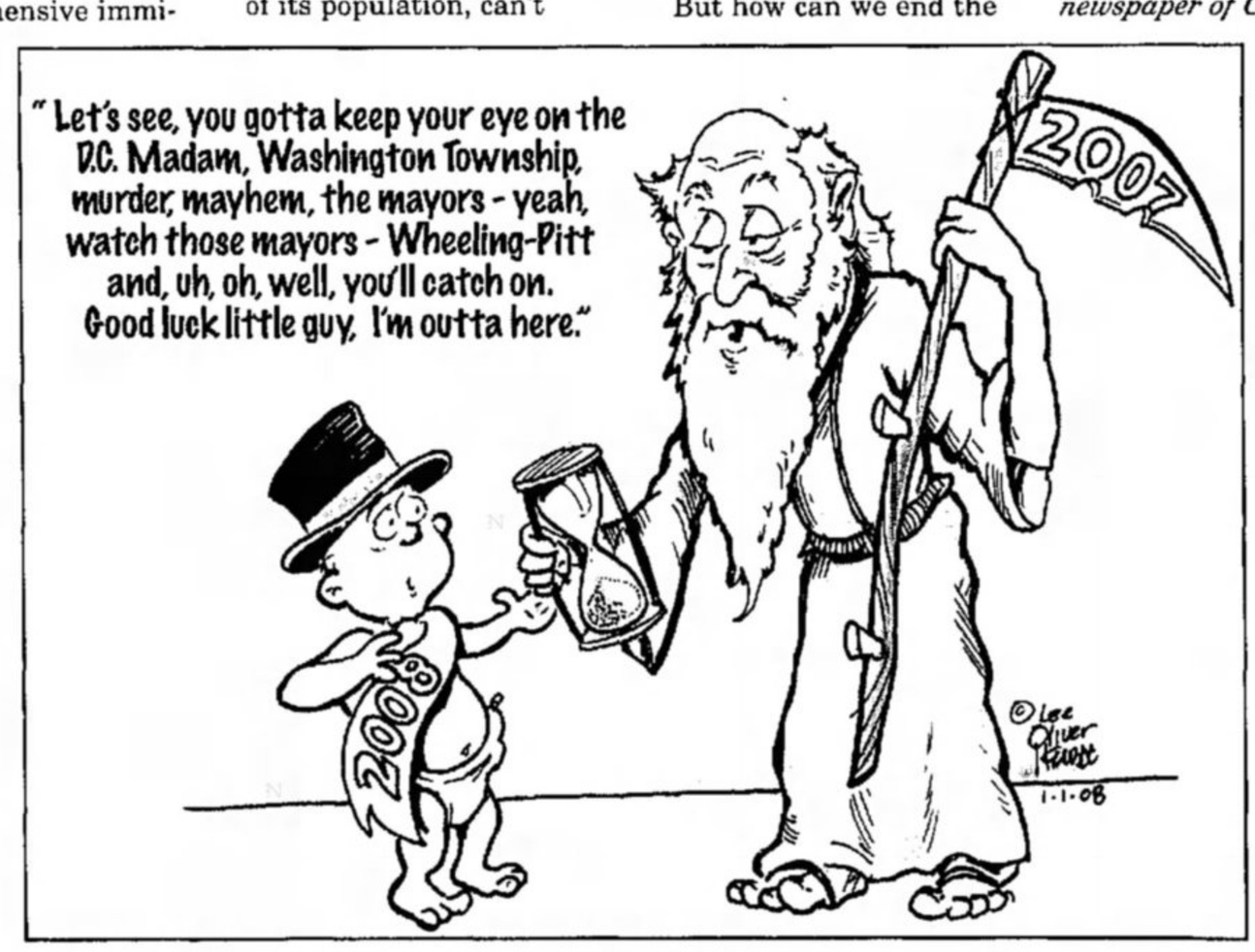
But the prime requirement is presidential leadership — a willingness to spend time with leaders of the opposition party, include them in policy deliberations, really heed their concerns and try to build electoral coalitions and Congressional support of 55 percent or 60 percent, not Bush's 50-plus-one.

"Imagine ... that such a president told the country that he would accept some ideas counter to his own preferences to encourage others to do the same. Surely such a president would face howls of complaint about ideological betrayal from the most ardent voices of his own coalition.

"But that president also might touch a deep chord with voters. ... It has always been true that a president can score points by shaking a fist at his enemies. But a president who extends a hand to his enemies could transform American politics."

Amen. Think about it over the holidays.

Morton Kondracke is executive editor of Roll Call, the newspaper of Capitol Hill.


" Let's see, you gotta keep your eye on the D.C. Madam, Washington Township, murder, mayhem, the mayors - yeah, watch those mayors - Wheeling-Pitt and, uh, oh, well, you'll catch on. Good luck little guy, I'm outta here."
2007
2008
©Lee Oliver Fleck
1-1-08

Bush, Cheney working for the wealthy

YOUR OPINION

To the Editor:

The Bush Administration has made a mockery out of the Constitution. He and Cheney have just done what they please. They've been blackmailing the Congress and the public into getting what they want.

Both of them are no good through and through. They should both be hung up by their thumbs in front of the Lincoln Memorial for people to gawk at. They have screwed the majority of people in this country something terrible.

They lied about the war and terrorism from the get go. They sent soldiers into battle with substandard equipment and untrained for doing battle in that part of the world. We have our own arena out west where they could have trained.

They have spent a fortune on the war while our own natural disasters have broken the bank. They've blackmailed Congress into sending more money to Iraq while telling them they are unpatriotic to the cause. What a plan.

George Jr. received credit for ridding the world of Hussein and his no-good sons, and Haliburton got the lion's share of the contracts to rebuild what George blew up.

They both should have been impeached, Cheney first. I have heard the returning soldiers are having the same problems Vietnam vets had in the '60s and '70s.

They are making it difficult for them to receive what they need. They are skimping on the money where it's needed most and they are hiding all this from the public again.

The people who started the war don't want the public to see the most terrible part of war, because if they do they just might leave their comfortable homes long enough to head for Washington, D.C., where they should be going.

Another generation will be scarred so the rich can do whatever it is they do. They will never be ashamed of what they do because they have been indoctrinated by their fathers and grandfathers. This is what the rich do, and they get the poor to do their dirty work.

Dave Eberts
Perryopolis

TV LISTINGS

Start new year by taking small steps to big changes

Dear ABBY

DEAR READERS: The new year has arrived, and with it our chance for a new beginning.

This is the day we discard destructive old habits for healthy new ones.

With that in mind, I am sharing Dear Abby's often-requested list of New Year's resolutions — which were adapted by my mother, Pauline Phillips, from the original credo of Al-Anon.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will live through this day only. I will not brood about yesterday or obsess about tomorrow. I will not set far-reaching goals or try to overcome all of my problems at once.

I know that I can do something for 24 hours that would overwhelm me if I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will be happy. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. If my mind fills with clouds, I will chase them away and fill it with sunshine.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will accept what is. I will face reality. I will correct those things I can correct and accept those I cannot.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will improve my mind. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration. I will not be a mental loafer.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will be kind and courteous to those who cross my path, and I'll not speak ill of others. I will improve my appearance, speak softly, and not interrupt when someone else is talking.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will refrain from improving anybody but myself.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will do something positive to improve my health. If I'm a smoker, I'll quit. If I am overweight, I will eat healthfully — if only just for today. And not only that, I will get off the couch and take a brisk walk, even if it's only around the block.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will gather the courage to do what is right and take responsibility for my own actions.

And now, Dear Readers, I would like to share an item that was sent to me by I.J. Bhatia, a reader who lives in New Delhi, India:

DEAR ABBY: This year, no resolutions, only some guidelines.

The Holy Vedas say: "Man has subjected himself to thousands of self-inflicted bondages. Wisdom comes to a man who lives according to the true eternal laws of nature."

The following prayer of Saint Francis contains a powerful message:

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;

"Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

"Where there is injury, pardon;

"Where there is doubt, faith;

"Where there is despair, hope;

"Where there is darkness, light;

"Where there is sadness, joy;

"O Divine Master, grant that I may not as much seek to be consoled as to console;

"To be loved as to love.

"For it is in giving that we are pardoned;

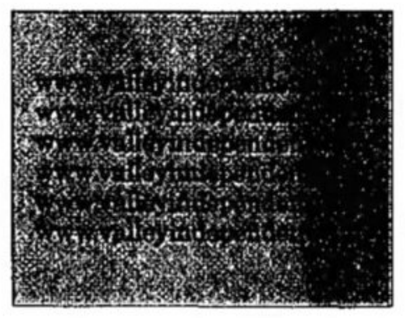
"It is in dying that we are born to eternal life."

And so, Dear Readers, may this New Year bring with it peace and joy. — **LOVE, ABBY**

(Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips.

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.)

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



TUESDAY EVENING — JAN. 1, 2008

MOVIES | TALK | NEWS | KIDS | SPORTS

	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30	12AM	12:30	1AM	1:30	2AM	2:30
CBS (2) KDKA (7) WTRF (10) WTAJ	News (N)	(7) (10) CBS Evening News With Katie Couric (N)	(2) CBS Evening News-Couric/ (7) Entertainment/ (10) Inside	(2) The Insider (N)/ (7) Inside Edition/ (10) Two and a Half Men	NCIS "Dead and Unburied" The body of a missing lance corpoial is found.		The Unit "Force Majeure" The Unit must save a hospitalized African dictator.		48 Hours Mystery "Right or Wrong?" A woman is charged with stabbing her husband 193 times.		News (N)	Late Show With David Letterman George Clooney; the Decemberists.		The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson		(2) Extra (N)/ (7) The Insider (N)/ (10) Everybody Loves Raymond	(2) (10) Paid/ (7) That '70s Show "5:15"	(2) Paid/ (7) (10) CBS Up to the Minute (N)
ABC (4) WTAE (23) WATM	College Football Rose Bowl — Illinois vs. USC. From Pasadena, Calif.					Just for Laughs (Season Premiere) (N)	According to Jim God lets Jim reinvent women. (N)	According to Jim Jim tries to cheer up Cheryl. (N)	Boston Legal "The Chicken and the Leg" With Carl, Denny wagers a large sum over a cock-fighting case.		(4) Ch. 4 Action News at 11 (N)/ (23) News (N)	Nightline (N)	Jimmy Kimmel Live Don Cheadle; Zac Efron; Editors.		(4) Oprah Winfrey/ (23) Paid	(23) Paid	(4) Inside Edition/ (23) Jerry Springer	(4) Entertainment Tonight (N)
NBC (6) WJAC (9) WTOV (11) WPXI	News (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	(6) Entertainment Tonight (N)/ (9) (11) Jeopardy! (N)	(6) Who Wants to Be a Millionaire/ (9) (11) Wheel of Fortune "Great Outdoors" (N)	The Biggest Loser: Couples Teams of two must pull a giant hot-air balloon across a field. (Season Premiere) (N)				Law & Order: Special Victims Unit A wealthy teen is found murdered. (N)		News (N)	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno		Late Night With Conan O'Brien Will Arnett; Terry Crews; Patti Scialfa.		Last Call With Carson Daly	(6) (11) Poker After Dark/ (9) Oprah Winfrey Transforming teens.	
FOX (8) WWCP (53) WPGH	(8) The Simpsons/ (53) Two and a Half Men	(8) That '70s Show "5:15"/ (53) Frasier "Flour Child"	(8) Seinfeld/ (53) Two and a Half Men	Seinfeld "The Pitch" Jerry comes up with idea for series.	College Football Pregame	College Football Allstate Sugar Bowl — Georgia vs. Hawaii. From New Orleans.						College Football Postgame		(8) News/ (53) Paid		(8) Frasier/ (53) Paid	Paid	(8) Paid/ (53) Sex and the City "Unoriginal Sin"	(8) Paid/ (53) Cheaters
(13) WQED	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Nightly Business Report	On Q	Great Performances Georges Prêtre conducts Vienna Philharmonic at Musikverein. (N)		Words and Music by Jerry Herman (N)		Charlie Rose A memorial to those who died. (N)			On Q		Tavis Smiley		Live From Lincoln Center Romantic violin pieces featuring Joshua Bell. (N)		
(19) WPCW	The People's Court		Everybody-Raymond	Everybody-Raymond	Crowned: The Mother of All Pageants		One Tree Hill "All of a Sudden I Miss Everyone"		The 10 O'Clock News	The Nightly Sports Call	Malcolm in the Middle	According to Jim	That '70s Show "5:15"	King of the Hill	South Park	Paid	Paid	Paid
(22) WPMY	The Simpsons	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Family Guy	2007 World Magic Awards Honoring the world's best magicians.				TMZ (N)	Frasier	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Paid	Paid	Bernie Mac	My Wife-Kids	Half & Half	Half & Half
(40) WPCB	The 700 Club		Focus 4		7th St. Theater	Way Of Master	F4 Generation	Today God	Day-Discovery	Quick Study	CBN News	Richard and Lindsay Roberts		Way Of Master	Focus 4		Gaither Homecoming Hour	
(59) WBGN	Temptation	Temptation	Degrassi: Next	Reno 911!	The Nanny	Mad Abt. You	★★★ Napoleon Dynamite (2004)				Reno 911!	Blind Date	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid
A&E	CSI: Miami "Kill Switch"		CSI: Miami "Born to Kill"		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48	
ABCFAM	8 Simple Rules	8 Simple Rules	Grounded-Life	Grounded-Life	Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		The 700 Club		Whose Line?	Whose Line?	Precious in His Sight		Paid	Paid
AMC	★★ Shattered (1991) Premiere.				★★½ Mission: Impossible (1996) Treachery in Prague puts an agent on the run.				★★½ Ladder 49 (2004) A firefighter awaits rescue from a burning building.						★★½ Guarding Tess (1994)			
ANPL	The Crocodile Hunter		Profiles of Nature "Ambush!"		Profiles of Nature		Piranhas		Animal Precinct		Profiles of Nature		Piranhas		Animal Precinct		Profiles of Nature "Ambush!"	
BBC	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		BBC World	How Clean	Life on Mars		Life on Mars		BBC World	What You Eat	Life on Mars		Life on Mars		Coupling	Wrld Stand Up	The Weakest Link	
BET	Notarized: Top 100 Videos of '07 Countdown						★★½ Jason's Lyric (1994)				Hell Date	Hell Date	Jamie Foxx	Jamie Foxx	Comicview		106 & Party: New Year's Eve	
BRAVO	The Biggest Loser The winner is revealed.				Real Housewives		Real Housewives		Real Housewives		Real Housewives		Real Housewives		Project Runway		Real Housewives	
CMT	Trick My Truck	Trick My Truck	Trick My Truck	Trick My Truck	Trick My Truck	Trick My Truck	Trick My Truck	Trick My Truck	Trick My Truck	Trick My Truck	Trick My Truck	Trick My Truck	Trick My Truck	Trick My Truck	Trick My Truck	Trick My Truck	CMT Music	
CNBC	Ultimate Fighting		Deal or No Deal Contestants get a chance to win money.				The Suze Orman Show		Deal or No Deal Contestants get a chance to win money.				The Suze Orman Show		Billionaire Inside: D. Trump		Paid	Paid
CNN	The Situation Room		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Out in the Open		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360	
COM	Scrubs	Scrubs	Scrubs	Scrubs	★★½ Legally Blonde (2001)				★★½ Zoolander (2001)				Daniel Tosh: Serious		Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents	Austin Powers: Man of Mystery	
COURT	Beach Patrol		Cops	Cops "Texas"	Ocean Force	Ocean Force	Ocean Force	Ocean Force	Ocean Force	Ocean Force	Ocean Force	Ocean Force	Ocean Force	Ocean Force	Ocean Force	Ocean Force	Ocean Force	Ocean Force
CSPAN	House of Representatives				Tonight From Washington						Capital News Today						Today in Washington	
DISC	Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs Ostrich farmer.		Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs	
DISNEY	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Han. Montana	Han. Montana	Han. Montana	Han. Montana	Movie			Life Derek	Zack & Cody	Han. Montana	Replacements	Kim Possible	Emperor New	American Drgn	Buzz Lightyear	Timon-Pumbaa
E!	Kardashians	Kardashians	Kardashians	Snoop Father	Snoop Father	Snoop Father	Snoop Father	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Wildest Wed	Chelsea Lately	Britney Spears: Fall		Saturday Night Live		Sunset Tan	Chelsea Lately
ESPN	Outside-Lines	NFL Live	SportsCenter				SportsCenter College Football Special				SportsCenter		SportsCenter		Football Sp.	NFL Live (N)	SportsCenter	
ESPNC	★★ 3 (2004)				Boxing		Russo & Steele Car Auction (N)		American Gladiators		Bull Riding PRCA Xtreme Bulls.			Boxing	2-Minute Drill	2-Minute Drill	Cheap Seats	Arliss
ESPN2	Strongest Man	Strongest Man	Strongest Man	Strongest Man	Strongest Man	Strongest Man	Strongest Man	Strongest Man	Strongest Man	Strongest Man	World's Strongest Man		2003 World's Strongest Man		World's Strongest Man		World's Strongest Man	
EWTN	Choices-Face	Solemn Mass of Reparation From EWTN.			Mother Angelica-Classic		Religious	Holy Rosary	Threshold of Hope		Christ in City	Catholic	Solemn Mass of Reparation From EWTN.			Mother Angelica-Classic		Threshld-Hope
FNC	Special Report		Fox Report-Shepard Smith		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity & Colmes		On the Record-Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity & Colmes		On the Record-Van Susteren		Special Report	
FOOD	The Next Iron Chef		The Next Iron Chef		The Next Iron Chef		The Next Iron Chef		Iron Chef America (N)		A Cook's Tour	Unwrapped	The Next Iron Chef		Iron Chef America		A Cook's Tour	Unwrapped
FSN	Sport Science		Sport Science		Sport Science		Sport Science		Penguins	Final Score	Sport Science		Final Score	Sport Science		FSN Special	Final Score	Final Score
FX	★★ Big Momma's House (2000)				★★ Rebound (2005) Premiere.				★★ Rebound (2005)				★½ Dude, Where's My Car? (2000)				Paid	Guthy-Renker
GOLF	Golf-Academy	Play Lessons	PGA Championship Highlights		PGA Championship Highlights		Big Break: Mesquite		Big Break: Mesquite		Big Break: Mesquite		Big Break: Mesquite		Play Lessons	Lessons	Lessons	Lessons
GSN	Lingo	Whammy	Weakest Link		Who Wants to Be a Millionaire		Question	Family Feud	Family Feud	Chain Reaction	Lingo	Whammy	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire		Trivia Trap	Now You See	High Stakes Poker	
HALL	★★★½ The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (1967)						★★½ Hang 'Em High (1968)				★★½ Quigley Down Under (1990)				★★ Return of the Seven (1966)			
HGTV	My Kitchen	My Kitchen	House Worth?	House Hunters	Designed-Sell	My Kitchen	HGTV Dream Home 2008 (N)		Sleep on It (N)	Secrets Sell	House Worth?	Hid Potential	Designed-Sell	My Kitchen	HGTV Dream Home 2008		Sleep on It	Secrets Sell
HIST	American Eats "Barbecue"		Modern Marvels		The Universe "Cosmic Holes"		The Universe		The Universe "The Milky Way"		Mega Disasters		The Universe "Cosmic Holes"		The Universe		The Universe "The Milky Way"	
LIFE	No One Would Tell (1996)		★★ Gracie's Choice (2004)				★★ America's Prince: The John F. Kennedy Jr. Story (2003)				Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Frasier	Frasier	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	The Nanny	Guthy-Renker
MSNBC	Lockup: Holman		Lockup: Holman		Lockup: Holman		Lockup: Holman		Lockup: Holman		Lockup: Holman		Lockup: Holman		Lockup: Holman		Lockup: Holman	
MTV	Super Sweet	Super Sweet	Sweet 16	Super Sweet	Super Sweet	Sweet 16	Super Sweet	Super Sweet	Super Sweet	Super Sweet	Newport Harb.	Real World	Super Sweet	Super Sweet	True Life Bitter rivalries.		True Life Dieting.	
NICK	SpongeBob SquarePants		Drake & Josh "Drake & Josh Go Hollywood"			Full House	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	George Lopez	George Lopez	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	George Lopez	George Lopez	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince
OXY	Janice Dickinson Modeling		Janice Dickinson Modeling		Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Janice Dickinson Modeling		Bad Girls Club	The Tyra Banks Show		Janice Dickinson Modeling		The Tyra Banks Show	
PCN	PCN Tours		PA Public Affairs														Deutsche Welle News	
PCNC	Lynn Cullen Show Talk show.		News	News	NightTalk With Ann Devlin		News		Tomlin Conf.	NASCAR	Hansberger	Fedko Fone	News	News	News	Paid	NightTalk With Ann Devlin	
SCIFI	The Twilight Zone		Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	ECW Tag Team Title action.		Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone
SPIKE	Good Pets-Bad	★★★ Kill Bill: Vol. 1 (2003) An assassin seeks vengeance against her attackers.			★★★ Kill Bill: Vol. 2 (2004) An assassin confronts her former boss and his gang.								★★★ Kung Fu Hustle (2004)				Dangerous Animals	
TBS	Friends	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	The Office	The Office	Sex and City	Sex and City	★ Saving Silverman (2001)				American Pie: Band Camp	
TCM	★★★½ That's Entertainment! III (1994)				★★★½ Things to Come (1936) Premiere.				★★★½ The Time Machine (1960)				★★★ Rollerball (1975)				★★★ The Terminator (1984)	
TLC	The 750-Pound Man		Half Ton Man		I Eat 33,000 Calories a Day		World's Heaviest Man		627 Lb Woman: Jackie's Story		I Eat 33,000 Calories a Day		World's Heaviest Man		627 Lb Woman: Jackie's Story		Half Ton Man	
TNT	Law & Order "Tombstone"		Law & Order "Patient Zero"		Law & Order "Avatar"		Law & Order		Law & Order "Cost of Capital"		Cold Case "The Good Death"		Without a Trace		Without a Trace "Win Today"		NYPD Blue "What a Dump"	
TOON	Scooby-Doo	Scooby-Doo	Camp Lazlo	Foster's Home	Foster's Home	Courage-Dog	Gym Partner	Grim Advent.	Ed, Edd	Naruto	Fat Guy Stuck	Superjail	Xavier-Angel	Saul-Mole Men	Frisky Dingo	Moral Orel	Daughter-Devil	Squidbillies
TRAVEL	Tournament of Roses Parade		Treasures	Treasures	Treasures	Treasures	Treasures	Treasures	Treasures	Treasures	Treasures	Treasures	Treasures	Treasures	Treasures	Treasures	Treasures	Treasures
TVLAND	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Sanford & Son	The Jeffersons
USA	Monk		Monk		Monk		Monk		Monk		Monk		Monk		Monk		Monk	
VH1	America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model	
VS.	World Extreme Cagefighting		World Extreme Cagefighting				World Extreme Cagefighting				World Extreme Cagefighting				World Extreme Cagefighting			
WE	Twister Sisters		Twister Sisters		Twister Sisters		Twister Sisters		Twister Sisters (N)		Secret Lives of Women		Secret Lives of Women		Twister Sisters		Twister Sisters	
WGN	Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	WGN News at Nine (N)		Scrubs	Scrubs	Corner Gas	Becker	Funniest Home Videos		The Steve Wilkos Show (N)	
ENC	Flirt.-Disaster	★★ Mr. Wrong (1996)			★★★ The Rock (1996) Alcatraz Island terrorists threaten to gas San Francisco.				★½ The Benchwarmers (2006)				★½ The Covenant (2006)			★★½ Child's Play (1988)		
HBO	★★★ The Devil Wears Prada (2006)				★★★½ Superman Returns (2006) The Man of Steel faces an old enemy.				★★★½ The Departed (2006) An undercover cop and a criminal lead double lives.							★ Fair Game (1995)		
MAX	★★★ Primary Colors (1998) Premiere.				★★★ White Men Can't Jump (1992)				★★½ The Ringer (2005)			Naked Surrender (2006)			Coed Confid.	★★½ The Dead Pool (1988)		
SHOW	★★ Sister Act (1992)		★★ Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit (1993)				The L Word "Lassoed"		The L Word "Layup"		The L Word "Lez Girls"		★½ The Devil's Rejects (2005)				★★ Dangerous Game (1993)	
STARZ	★★★ The Mummy (1999)		★★ Stick It (2006)				★★½ The Holiday (2006)					★★★ Déjà Vu (2006)				★★★ The Pursuit of Happyness (2006)		
TMC	★★ The Meteor Man (1993) Falling star gives him super powers.				★★½ Bad News Bears (2005)				★★ Failure to Launch (2006) Premiere.			★★ Dangerous Minds (1995)				★½ Six Ways to Sunday (1999)		

Helping 56 Homeowners By "Giving Away" $2,621 Furnaces For $941 with Off-Season Central Air

This is great news for your wallet if your furnace is over 12 years old. Because, yes, it's absolutely true...you can actually replace your old (and probably very inefficient) furnace and air conditioner as a package for at least $1680 less than you would have to pay at any other time.
Please allow me to explain...

Every year, the months of January, February, March and April can "destroy" my business. I end up losing a ton of money during these "business destroyer" months and it can take me the remaining nine months to make up for them. I'm looking for the same thing to happen this year. That is why

My Problem Is An Excellent Opportunity For You

I employ great people and I want to keep them working during these long, hard months. That is why I've decided to give up trying to make a profit during the "business destroyer" months. If I can only minimize my losses during January, February, March and April I will come out ahead of the other nine months.
So, if you buy one of these 56 new air conditioners (but only if one of the four sizes I have will fit your house, of course), I am "giving" you the furnace and all I ask for is the $941 in labor costs for installation.

Perfect Fit For Your Home

Just call me at 724-258-2215 anytime. I will come out and measure your home (and determine the availability of the proper size). Don't forget, I only have 56 matched systems in four sizes. When they are gone, this remarkable offer ends also.

I will show you the real-world price on the air conditioner that fits your home. Then, I will show you the substantial savings available now. And it will include all labor and installation materials. Nothing is left out.

What A Really Simple Concept

By letting you win big now, I will win at the end of the year.
I'm betting that if I make you an offer that is "irresistible" (at least it should be if your furnace or air conditioner is over 12 years old) and I barely mark it up above the price I paid, I will accomplish two things:
I can pay my professional staff of employees to work instead of paying them to not paying them to sit at home.
I will cover my rent, utilities, insurance and taxes in the "business destroyer" months.
If I can accomplish these two objectives, I will minimize my losses and the rest of the year, I can be a winner.

You Can Buy With NO Cash*

You don't even have to pay me right away. I have set up a terrific bank rate financing plan. I even decided not to mark up the interest rate like some companies do.

Consider this: If you decide to make monthly investments instead of paying cash, the entire amount of your payments might be more than offset by the savings on your utility bills. It's like "having your cake and eating it too".

Fuel Efficiency Guarantee

I'm so confident that you will save at least 25% on your cooling and heating bills (I'm projecting more like 30% to 50%), that I will pay you Double The Difference for a year if you don't! I'll show you exactly how this works.

There is no way you can lose. Your lower utility bills will help you save big. And I will even double your savings if you save less than 25%.

[illegible] heating and air conditioning systems [illegible] you the best in the industry. [illegible] we make such a promise.

Why This Offer Can't Last

You must act before April 30th. Here are two reasons why:

I only have 14 systems for each of the 4 sizes to offer. When all of the air conditioners are sold and all the furnaces are "given" away in a particular size, that's it. There are no more at this price.

If I have any of the 56 systems left on April 30th (although I doubt I will), this offer still ends.

Give me a call now at 724-258-2215 and I will set an appointment for your no-obligation survey.

Tim Bartman
Owner

Bartman's ONE HOUR

NEW YEAR'S DAY MATTRESS SALE

SAVINGS OF 33% to 43%

BUY NOW & SAVE!

IT'S A GOOD TIME TO BUY A NEW MATTRESS AND BOX SPRING!

WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE THE BEST PRICES AND THE BEST SELECTIONS PERIOD.

Ends TODAY at 3PM!

100% MADE IN THE U.S.A.

Special Purchase
Medium Firm
Factory Select Covers
Twin Mattress $80
Full Mattress $110
Queen 2 Pc. Set $220

Factory Closeout
PILLOWTOP
Twin 2 pc. Sets $248
Full 2 pc. Sets $308
Queen 2 pc. Sets $358

Plush Eurotop
Factory Special
Real Comfortable
Twin 2 Pc. Sets $300
Full 2 Pc. Set $385
Queen 2 Pc. Set $425

Grown Tired Of Your Waterbed?

Replace Your Water Mattress With A Quality, Trouble-Free Mattress!

Manufactured expressly to fit into a hardside waterbed. Allows one inch on all 4 sides for tucking sheets. Don't throw away your waterbed bedroom furniture because you don't like your waterbed mattress...

	WAS	NOW
Medium Firm Good Quality		
Super Single	$339.95	$230
Queen	$429.95	$290
King	$549.95	$380
Plush Firm Very Good Quality		
Super Single	$549.95	$390
Queen	$649.95	$475
King	$849.95	$590

FREE DELIVERY

FREE SET-UP

FREE REMOVAL OF OLD BEDDING

SERTA 390 Coil
Medium Firm
$198.00 TWIN SIZE SET
FULL SET $278.00 QUEEN SET $298.00 KING SET $398.00

SERTA 448 Coil
Comfortable
Excellent Value For The Money
$237.00 TWIN SIZE SET
FULL SET $317.00 QUEEN SET $347.00 KING SET $577.00

SERTA Perfect Sleeper
Plush Top 532 Coil
Very Comfortable
$336.00 TWIN SIZE SET
FULL SET $396.00 QUEEN SET $496.00 KING SET $696.00

SERTA Perfect Sleeper
Firm or Plush 532 Coil
Super Buy For Better Quality
$459.00 TWIN SIZE SET
FULL SET $549.00 QUEEN SET $599.00 KING SET $799.00

SERTA Perfect Sleeper
Firm or Flush
$490.00 TWIN SIZE SET
FULL SET $600.00 QUEEN SET $640.00 KING SET $940.00

SERTA 848 COIL
Perfect Sleeper
Very Firm or Plush • Superior Quality
$675.00 TWIN SIZE SET
FULL SET $875.00 QUEEN SET $915.00 KING SET $1325.00

SLEEP BETTER...FEEL BETTER

Mundel's Mattress Center

NEXT TO GABRIEL BROTHERS
FINLEY RD, BELLE VERNON

724-929-8338

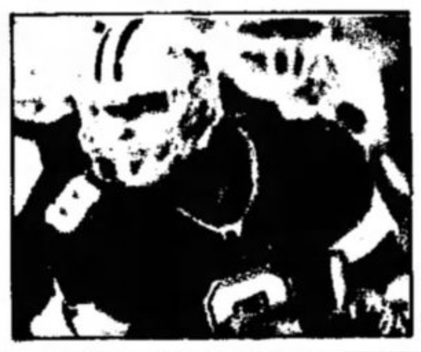
Serta

MasterCard VISA

SAT 10-5 SUN 12-5 MON 10-3 TUE 10-3

Ravens fire Billick

Baltimore beat the Steelers Sunday, but it wasn't enough to save Brian Billick's job. 2B



Tony Romo on Mini-Page

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo is featured on today's Mini-Page. 5B

Looking good for 2008

Penn State may have 18 starters back next season, but will need a replacement for Anthony Morelli. 2B

Sports Trivia

Which three television game shows did former Baltimore Ravens coach Brian Billick appear on between 1978-1980? 2B

Today's schedule

Pittsburgh vs. Buffalo at Ralph Wilson Stadium, 1 p.m.
Ottawa at Washington, 4 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

Brian **HERMAN**

Steelers-Jags won't be close

Thinking out loud:

■ Do the oddsmakers know something I don't?

They have Saturday night's wild card contest between Pittsburgh and Jacksonville at Heinz Field as a pick game. In other words, it means the Steelers and Jaguars are even.

Are the bookies in Las Vegas serious?

There's no way they can convince me the Steelers and Jaguars were in the same boat at the tail end of the season.

The Steelers closed by losing three of their last four games. If that wasn't bad enough, the defense that looked pretty good in September and October fizzled by allowing 114 points in the last four outings or 28 points a game.

I know Troy Polamalu, Ben Roethlisberger and Hines Ward didn't play against Baltimore so they could heal up for the Jaguars.

I also know the Ravens were pretty bad with a nine-game losing streak, a rookie quarterback (Troy Smith) starting his second NFL game and their third- and fourth-string running backs, Cory Ross and Musa Smith, running for a combined 155 yards against Pittsburgh.

Did I forget to tell you the heart of the Ravens' defense — linebacker Ray Lewis — and the team's top rushers — Willis McGahee and Mike Anderson — were on Baltimore's inactive list?

The Jaguars won three in a row in December before sitting out eight starters in a meaningless season-ending 42-28 loss in Houston.

Everyone knows one of those three wins was in Pittsburgh, 29-22, three weeks ago in the wind and snow when the Jaguars outgained the Steelers, 421-217.

The fact that Indianapolis needed a last-second field goal to beat Jacksonville, 28-25, on the first Sunday in December tells you all you really need to know about the Jaguars.

The Jags' rematch with the Steelers won't be close.

■ Bet the Roger Goodell fan club got a lot bigger when the NFL commissioner let CBS and NBC simulcast the Patriots' 38-35 Saturday night win over the Giants that was supposed to be exclusively on the NFL Network.

■ You have to feel a little sorry for Pitt men's basketball coach Jamie Dixon these days. Within the past 10 days he has seen injuries knock out one senior starter (Mike Cook) for the season and another (Dewayne Fields) for eight to 12 weeks.

What was looking like a promising Panther campaign in the rugged Big East may be taking a different turn.

■ Like a lot of folks I still can't believe Jeannette's Terrelle Pryor wasn't one of the seven finalists for the Joe Montana Quarterback of the Year Award which goes to 6-3, 220 pound junior Matt Barkley of Mater Dei High today at the Outback Bowl.

■ To all my readers a happy and healthy New Year!

Rats to flee sinking ship?

Lack of corporate sponsors may send indoor football team to Erie.

By BRIAN HERMAN
Sports Editor
bherman@tribweb.com

The Pittsburgh RiverRats may not be returning to the mid-Mon Valley and the Ice Garden in Rostraver Township after all.

Several months ago owner Jeff Hauser said the team would return for its second season in the American Indoor Football Association despite taking a $100,000 loss.

Hauser was optimistic that a sponsor fair scheduled for the second Saturday in December at the Ice Garden would be productive.

It wasn't, with bad weather being one of the reasons.

The Erie Times-News reported Monday that the RiverRats are close to finalizing an agreement to move the team to Erie and play at Tullio Arena for the 2008 season, which starts March 9.

Hauser insists he hasn't made a decision to leave the Mid-Mon Valley.

"There's no deal at the moment," he said. "My preference is Belle Vernon. This is our home and we want to stay here, but we're exploring plan B because I don't have a choice.

"I've been begging for support from area businesses and can't get it. The question is if the Mon Valley wants to have a professional football team."

The RiverRats were the lone expansion team to make the AIFA playoffs in 2007, rebounding from an 0-3 start to go 7-7 and finish fourth in the division. The RiverRats lost to Reading in the fist round of the playoffs.

Ironically, the RiverRats sealed a playoff spot with a record-breaking 86-72 win over the Erie Freeze.

The Freeze won only one game in 2007.

Quarterback David Dinkins, the RiverRats' franchise player, played previously for the Freeze and took them to the league championship game in 2005.

Erie Freeze owner Dave Hodas announced last month he would suspend operations for at least one year while trying to restructure the franchise's ownership.

AIFA CEO John Morris told the Erie newspaper last month that the league asked Hodas to sell the team or take on additional investors as a condition of playing in 2008.

The RiverRats re-signed most of their key players as well as several all-stars from other teams.

Area gridders who shined with the RiverRats were linebacker T.J. Carden of Ringgold High and California University, and receiver Brandon Jackson of Monessen and California University.

The RiverRats are scheduled to open training camp Feb. 22.

"I'm asking for some sponsors to step up within the next couple of days," added Hauser. "If it doesn't happen we have to move on."

Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

Brandon Jackson and the RiverRats may be headed to a new home in Erie.

Hockey weather for Pens, Sabres

Cold temperatures and old-style equipment at today's Winter Classic.

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — Maxime Talbot laughed at the old-style brown goalie pads Dany Sabourin strapped on for practice, a retro look if there ever was one, and immediately made a bet with his Pittsburgh Penguins teammate.

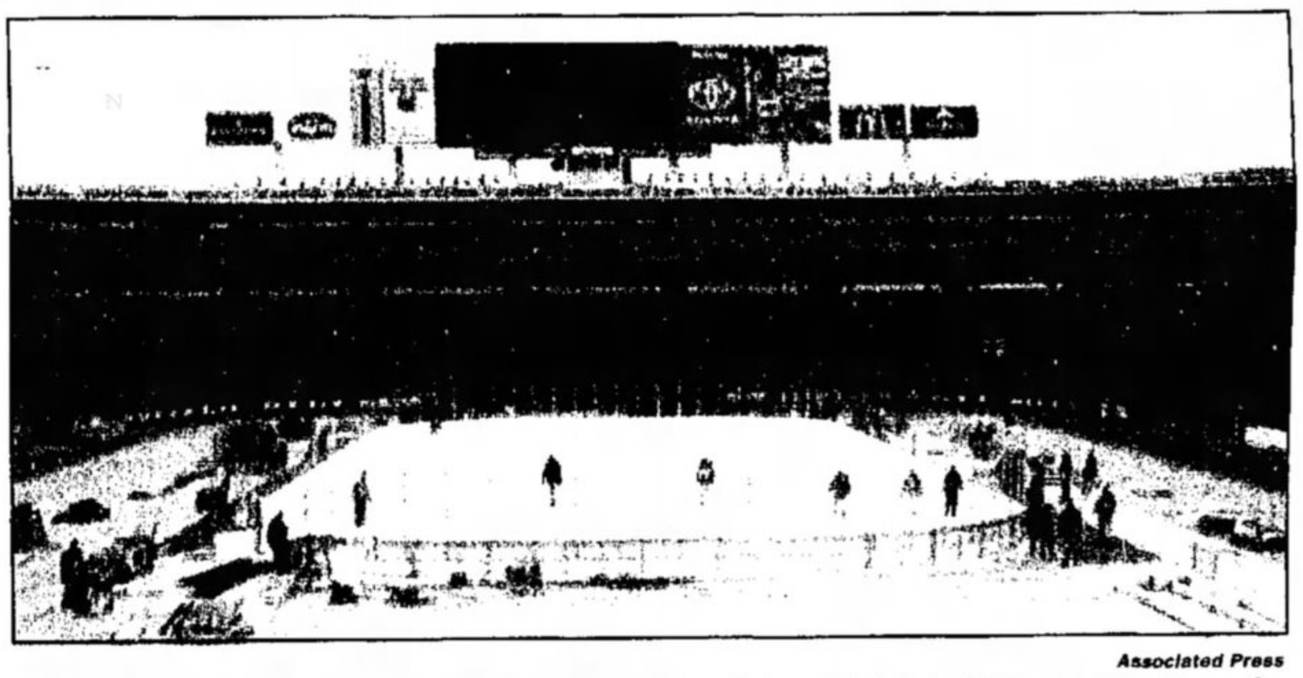
If Sabourin starts and wins the Winter Classic outdoor game in Buffalo today wearing the 1950s-ish looking pads, Talbot declared, he must keep wearing them when the Penguins return indoors.

"It's going to be cool," Sabourin said, commenting not on the anticipated 29-degree game-time temperature but rather the back-to-the-future gear the Penguins will wear. "Guys are going to skate with the old-time brown skates, too. Just the whole thing, being outside, it's something that's going to be special."

Especially cold, for one thing. Backup goalie Ty Conklin and forward Georges Laraque played in the NHL's first and only previous outdoor game, the Heritage Classic game matching Montreal and Edmonton on Nov. 22, 2003, and they're warning their teammates that dealing with the cold will be the biggest challenge.

The wind chill was about 20 below zero for the outdoor game in Edmonton, and predicted breezes could make it very cold in Buffalo.

Jose Theodore, who opposed Conklin in net during the Heritage Classic, is remembered for winning the game 4-3 for Montreal with a ski cap pulled over his helmet.



Associated Press

Workers prepare the surface of an ice rink at Ralph Wilson Stadium in Orchard Park, N.Y. The stadium is being converted into a hockey rink for today's NHL Winter Classic outdoor game between the Sabres and Penguins.

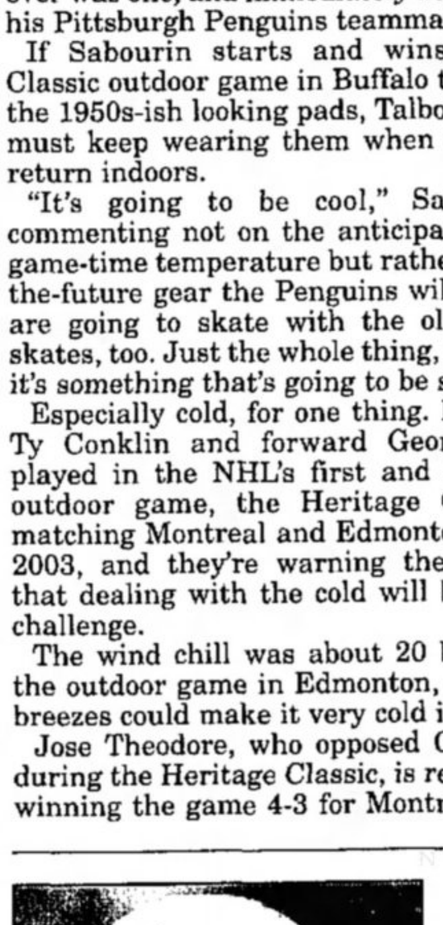
"Ty said he wore a deep-sea diver's suit under his equipment to stay warm because he was standing all the time," said forward Colby Armstrong, who grew up playing pond hockey in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. "I don't know if it will get that cold, but it will be weird to see."

How about playing in snow flurries? Or when the wind is strong enough to alter a shot or a pass? Or if a player can't handle the stick and gives the puck away because his hands are so cold?

The Penguins have discussed all these challenges in their last few practices as they prepare for the great unknown of outdoor hockey.

"I remember the last game in Edmonton just seeing how miserable some of the players looked and how cold it was," said Adam Hall, who played for Michigan State in the outdoor Cold War game against Michigan in 2001.

(See PENGUINS, Page 3B)



Associated Press

The Steelers will face Peyton Manning — and his brother Eli — during the 2008 season.

NFL's elite teams on Steelers' 2008 schedule

Patriots, Colts, Cowboys and Chargers will be among opponents.

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers had one of the NFL's easiest schedules this season. That figures to change next season, unless a number of teams that were very good quickly go bad.

By winning the AFC North, the Steelers (10-6) must play a first-place schedule in 2008, which means games against AFC division winners New England, Indianapolis and San Diego. The Steelers played a second-place schedule this season.

Eight of the Steelers' 16 games in 2008 will be against playoff teams: Dallas, Indianapolis, San Diego, the New York Giants, Jacksonville, Tennessee, New England and Washington. They will play every team in the AFC South and NFC East as part of the NFL's annual schedule rotation.

Times and dates won't be set for three more months, but the Steelers' home opponents will be the Cowboys (13-3), Colts (13-3), Chargers (11-5), Giants (10-6) and Houston Texans (8-8), plus AFC North opponents Cleveland (10-6), Cincinnati (7-9) and Baltimore (5-11).

Their travel-friendly road schedule consists of the Patriots (16-0) in Foxborough for the second season in a row, their three division opponents and Jacksonville (11-5), Tennessee (10-6), Washington (9-7) and Philadelphia (8-8).

Most of the trips are about an hour's flight from Pittsburgh, and the Steelers will play no road game west of Nashville.

The Steelers, who won the AFC North and made the playoffs despite losing three of their final four, played six games this season against teams with five or fewer wins in 2006. They lost to the Jets, beat the Dolphins, 49ers and Rams, and split with the Ravens.

Next season, the Steelers play three of the four teams that went 13-3 or better this season, missing only the Green Bay Packers (13-3). The only team they faced this season that had a similarly good record last season was Baltimore, which nose-dived to 5-11 after going 13-3 in 2006.

The Steelers and Redskins meet regularly in the preseason, but this will be Pittsburgh's first regular-season trip to Washington since 1988. The Steelers play in Philadelphia for the first time since 1997 and Dallas travels to Pittsburgh for the first time since that season.

The Giants haven't played in Pittsburgh since winning there 23-20 in 1991, the Steelers' last loss in a Monday night home game.

SPORTS

Billick fired in Baltimore

Nine-year tenure as Ravens' coach ends with disappointing season.

By DAVID GINSBURG
AP Sports Writer

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — Brian Billick was fired as coach of the Baltimore Ravens on Monday, less than a day after his team concluded a disappointing 5-11 season.

Players were told of the dismissal as they packed up their lockers at the team's practice facility.

Billick won the 2001 Super Bowl in his second season with the Ravens, and led the team to a franchise-best 13-3 record in 2006. But Baltimore lost a team-record nine consecutive games this season before ending the skid Sunday with a 27-21 win over Pittsburgh.

"This is the reality of our business," cornerback Samari Rolle said.

Billick's nine seasons with Baltimore was tied for third with Philadelphia's Andy Reid as the third-longest current run with the same team. He took the Ravens to the playoffs in 2000, 2001, 2003 and 2006, but Baltimore won only one postseason game since its Super Bowl run after the 2000 season.

"Sometimes the message can get repetitive after a while," 12-year offensive tackle Jonathan Ogden said.

Ogden said this month that Billick had informed the team he would be returning in 2008. But owner Steve Bisciotti evidently changed his mind.

The Ravens expected to compete for a world championship this season after bringing back almost every starter from last year's AFC North champions. But injuries and a turnover-prone offense contributed to a complete collapse after a 4-2 start, and Baltimore finished last in the division.

"This year the injury bug not only hit us, (it) hit our prime-time players," linebacker Bart Scott said.

Billick, 53, was hired as Baltimore's second head coach in January 1999, succeeding Ted Marchibroda. In Billick's first season, the Ravens reached .500 (8-8) for the first time. Then he led Baltimore to a 12-4 record and a berth in the Super Bowl, where the Ravens beat the New York Giants 34-7.

Billick was 80-64 as Baltimore's coach. He was the offensive coordinator of the Minnesota Vikings before being coming to the Ravens.

"I'm not saying I agree with it," kicker Matt Stover said of Billick's dismissal, "but sometimes things have to change."

Brian Billick

Penn State rich in experience, but needs QB

Joe Paterno may return 18 starters, but not Anthony Morelli.

By GENARO C. ARMAS
AP Sports Writer

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Experience counts for 42-year coaching veteran Joe Paterno.

Penn State may have as many as 18 starters back in 2008 from a squad that finished a 9-4 season on a bright note with a thrilling 24-17 win over Texas A&M at the Alamo Bowl.

But all that experience will matter little if players can't stay on the field.

One of the first orders of business this offseason for Paterno will be to talk to a few troubled Nittany Lions. Off-the-field player run-ins with police caused headaches all season long for the coach.

"I've got to sit down and bring some kids in," Paterno said Sunday in his annual season-ending news conference. "It's unfortunate; they have to understand it's a little different world ... they have to walk away from things."

Tackle Chris Baker, a sophomore who steadily improved, was suspended the last two games of the year after being charged by police in connection with a fight at the student union on Oct. 7.

Associated Press

Joe Paterno, right, celebrates an Alamo Bowl victory with receiver Terrell Golden.

Baker was involved in another fight in April that also included safety Anthony Scirrotto.

While admonishing their behavior, Paterno said the incidents were "blown way out of what it should have been."

Injuries took a toll, too, this season. The defensive line lost tackle Jared Odrick (ankle) and Jerome Hayes (knee) in October.

The only loss on defense will be All-America linebacker Dan Connor, the Bednarik Award-winner as the nation's best defensive player. Connor finished his career with a school-record 419 tackles.

But Linebacker U. should be ably led next season by Sean Lee, whose fiery on-field demeanor makes him captain material.

Lee wants to squash any early talk of going for a national title.

"This is a great step, but you have to win the big games until we can talk about that," Lee said.

Penn State has had trouble in big games against Ohio State and Michigan since joining the Big Ten more than a decade ago. Next season's schedule includes this midseason gauntlet: At Wisconsin, Ohio State and Iowa, and home against Michigan in a five-week span.

Sophomore defensive end Maurice Evans is a rising star after compiling 12.5 sacks. The athletic sophomore displayed his promise by forcing two fumbles at the Alamo Bowl.

Justin King's reputation as a shut-down cornerback took a hit after getting burned more often this season, though he had been nagged by a shoulder injury. King is thinking about forgoing his senior season to enter the NFL draft.

On offense, tailback Rodney Kinlaw (1,329 yards, 10 TDs), a career backup, turned into a go-to player at midseason after Austin Scott was suspended indefinitely on Oct. 5. Police charged Scott a week later with rape; he has pleaded not guilty.

Redshirt freshman Evan Royster (518 yards, 5 TDs) had a promising beginning to his career.

"I think we have a big future," Royster said.

The offensive line jelled through the course of the season to become one of the team's strongest groups, both on the ground and in the passing game. Good things are expected from a unit with all five starters returning.

Receiver also figures to be a strength again, with the talented trio of Deon Butler, Jordan Norwood and Derrick Williams back for their senior seasons.

The biggest question mark will be who throws them the ball.

Two-year starter Anthony Morelli leaves Penn State with 5,275 passing yards and 31 career touchdown passes, and the distinction of being the first Nittany Lions quarterback to throw for more than 2,000 yards twice in his career.

Coaches praised his work ethic, and receivers marveled about his arm strength. But Morelli never endeared himself to fans, and he sometimes had difficulty in clutch situations.

Backup Daryll Clark made a strong case to replace Morelli after he ran for 60 yards on five carries against A&M, including an 11-yard touchdown run. Third-stringer Pat Devlin also figures to compete for the job, though Williams made it sound as if Clark has the edge.

Paterno: Son isn't ready

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Head coach Jay Paterno?

His boss and father, Penn State coach Joe Paterno, said Sunday that his son, who is currently quarterbacks coach, has the ability to be a head coach, but "I don't think Penn State would be a good place for him right now."

Joe Paterno's comments came after a reporter asked whether it might help Jay's career to leave Happy Valley.

"That's up to Jay. I've tried to be a father off the field, but I try to treat him as an assistant coach if I don't like something out there," Joe Paterno said.

Jay Paterno just finished his 13th season on the Nittany Lions staff and his eighth coaching quarterbacks.

Given his last name, Jay Paterno has been rumored at times as a potential successor for his 81-year-old father, who just finished his 42nd season as head coach. JoePa has one year left on his contract, though he has said he could coach a couple more seasons and perhaps as many five.

SPORTS DIGEST

California cagers drop Seton Hill

The California University women's basketball team upped its record to 9-3 with a 74-68 win at Seton Hill Monday afternoon.

The trio of Brooque Williams (23), reserve Shaquetta Mance (18) and Kayla Smith (12) combined for 53 points.

Smith also pulled down 16 rebounds as Cal held a 46-23 advantage under the boards.

Katie Lintner and Erika Haitz looked best for Seton Hill (5-4) with 20 and 18 points, respectively.

The win was the sixth straight for California. The Vulcans resume Saturday at Mansfield at 1 p.m.

Dolphins sack general manager

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — Bill Parcells' shakeup of the Miami Dolphins began Monday with the firing of general manager Randy Mueller.

Assistant director of player personnel Mike Baugh and college scouting coordinator Rick Thompson also departed.

Also at risk of being fired was coach Cam Cameron, who said he would discuss his future with Parcells this week. On Sunday, the Dolphins became only the eighth team to finish 1-15.

Parcells began work Thursday as executive vice president of football operations.

Mueller was the Dolphins' general manager for three seasons but was in charge of personnel decisions only since coach Nick Saban left a year ago.

Mueller received mixed reviews for his moves in 2007, which included the acquisition of free-agent linebacker Joey Porter and the selection of receiver Ted Ginn Jr. and quarterback John Beck in the draft.

Mueller was general manager of the New Orleans Saints in 2000-01.

Bills must replace Levy

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) -- Marv Levy, the cerebral coach who led the Buffalo Bills to an unprecedented four straight Super Bowls but couldn't revive a struggling franchise, told the team Monday he would not return as the Bills' general manager.

Bills safety George Wilson told The Associated Press that the 82-year-old Levy opened the team's wrap-up meeting with a five-minute speech during which he said he won't return as GM.

"He's not stepping down," Wilson said. "He's stepping out and moving on in his career."

Wilson said Levy told players he was content with where the Bills are after his two-year tenure as GM.

The Bills finished the season 7-9 after losing Sunday to Philadelphia, 17-9. They failed to make the playoffs for an eighth straight year, the longest drought in franchise history.

Trivia answer

"Match Game PM," "Jeopardy!" and "The Gong Show."

SPORTS HISTORY

30 Years Ago

Dallas won the NFC championship with a 23-6 win over Minnesota with Denver taking the AFC crown with 20-17 victory over Oakland.

20 Years Ago

Clemson clobbered Penn State, 35-10, in the Citrus Bowl.

Michigan State beat Southern California, 20-17, in the Rose Bowl.

Monessen's Jimbo Malinchak was the leading basketball scorer in the area with a 21.3 average followed by Ringgold's Yancey Tayor (18.5) and Belle Vernon Area's Steve Kovatch (18.1).

Texas A&M rolled over Notre Dame, 35-10, in the Cotton Bowl.

Auburn and Syracuse played to a 16-16 tie in the Sugar Bowl.

Texas passed over Pitt, 32-27, in the Bluebonnet Bowl.

10 Years Ago

Florida squeezed Penn State, 21-6, in the Citrus Bowl.

Michigan beat Washington State, 21-16, in the Rose Bowl.

Florida State downed Ohio State, 31-14, in the Sugar Bowl.

North Carolina was a 42-3 winner over Virginia Tech in the Gator Bowl.

Georgia beat Wisconsin, 33-6, in the Outback Bowl.

UCL came from behind to down Texas A&M, 29-23, in the Cotton Bowl.

Steelers facing tough road to Super Bowl

Pittsburgh may have to go through Jaguars, Colts and Patriots.

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — And the Pittsburgh Steelers thought they had a tough road to the Super Bowl two years ago.

Steelers linebacker Larry Foote is convinced this is the toughest field in AFC playoff history, and he makes a convincing argument. Some evidence: Indianapolis followed up its Super Bowl championship season by going 13-3, yet is only second-seeded to New England (16-0).

"All six teams are tough," Foote said.

The only AFC team not playing like it belongs is ... Pittsburgh (10-6), the loser of three of four and four of seven going into Saturday night's wild-card home game against Jacksonville. The Steelers have won only six of 11 since they were 4-1 and, in a very bad combination with the playoffs now here, are giving up big yardage rushing and passing.

This isn't a three-pack many teams would order to reach the Super Bowl: the Jaguars (11-5), Patriots (16-0) and Colts in succession. Yet that's the probable route the Steelers must travel to play for a second NFL title in three years.

"We've got to be razor sharp," coach Mike Tomlin said of a team that's been anything but that for nearly two months.

The Steelers are hurting, too, with star running back Willie Parker (broken leg) and defensive end Aaron Smith (torn triceps) out the rest of the way and left tackle Marvel Smith (back) probably done, too. Troy Polamalu (sore knee) is limping and backup tackle Max Starks (sprained left knee) was pulled during a dismally played 27-21 loss in Baltimore on Sunday.

Two years ago, the Steelers were peaking as the postseason arrived, winning four in a row before beating Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Denver on the road and Seattle in the Super Bowl.

These Steelers limp into a playoff home game against a better-record team by virtue of a division championship that, in reality, was won weeks and weeks ago. They haven't looked playoff-worthy since beating Baltimore 37-7 on Nov. 5, falling since in upsets to the Jets (4-12) and Ravens (5-11), losing badly to New England 34-13 and narrowly beating one-win Miami 3-0.

All this isn't preventing the Steelers from finding their inspiration in that unexpected postseason dash of two years ago. As linebacker Clark Haggans said, all the Steelers got from going 15-1 in 2004 was an AFC North championship T-shirt; a year later, they took home Super Bowl rings despite having a much worse record (11-5).

"Everybody's 0-0 right now," linebacker James Farrior said.

The Steelers' biggest challenge during a short work week will be finding a way to slow the run.

Since Aaron Smith was hurt Dec. 9 against New England, the Steelers have allowed 494 yards rushing to Jacksonville (224), St. Louis (90) and Baltimore (180). The Rams were forced to throw for much of their 41-24 loss on Dec. 20, yet Steven Jackson still ran for 85 yards.

Cory Ross, who had never carried the ball in an NFL game, ran for 72 yards Sunday and backup Musa Smith ran for 83 yards and a touchdown.

Jacksonville's Fred Taylor (147 yards) and Maurice Jones-Drew (69 yards) combined for 216 yards against them Dec. 16 as the Jaguars outgained Pittsburgh 421-217 during their 29-22 victory.

"I don't see Fred Taylor doing that to our defense twice in a row," Hines Ward said.

What about three times in a row? Taylor has 381 yards in his last two games in Pittsburgh, including a Steelers opponent-record 234 yards in 2000.

"We didn't like our performance against them the last time we played these guys, taking nothing away from them," Tomlin said. "We know what kind of team they are. We've got a lot of work to do."

So much for statistics — the Steelers still rank first overall in the NFL in defense and third against the run, yet they have allowed 1,492 yards — an average of 373 — in their last four games. New England all but abandoned the run, yet Tom Brady threw for 399 yards against them.

SPORTS

High school standings

Boys
Class AAA

	Sec. 4 W	L	Overall W	L
Chartiers Valley	2	0	10	1
Keystone Oaks	2	0	6	6
South Park	1	1	4	8
Ringgold	1	1	4	9
McGuffey	0	2	3	7
Trinity	0	2	1	9

Wednesday
Laurel Highlands at Ringgold
Thursday
Brentwood at Chartiers Valley

	Sec. 5 W	L	Overall W	L
Yough	2	0	6	6
Steel Valley	1	1	8	2
Belle Vernon Area	1	1	8	3
West Mifflin	1	1	5	6
Thomas Jefferson	1	1	2	7
Elizabeth Forward	0	2	2	10

Wednesday
Belle Vernon Area at Keystone Oaks
Elizabeth Forward at Uniontown
Thursday
Thoms Jefferson at Belle Vernon Area

Class AA

	Sec. 5 W	L	Overall W	L
Washington	5	0	11	3
Monessen	5	0	9	4
Burgettstown	3	2	8	3
Brownsville	3	2	7	5
C-Houston	2	3	7	6
Charleroi	2	3	6	7
Beth-Center	0	5	3	8
Waynesburg	0	5	2	9

Wednesday
Derry at Monessen
Thursday
Carmichaels at Beth-Center

Class A

	Sec. 2 W	L	Overall W	L
California	2	0	7	3
Geibel	1	0	2	7
Carmichaels	1	1	6	3
Jeff-Morgan	1	1	4	8
Mapletown	0	1	5	4
West Greene	0	2	1	8

Wednesday
California at East Allegheny

	Sec. 3 W	L	Overall W	L
Bentworth	3	0	8	2
Serra	1	0	7	1
Sacred Heart	3	2	3	9
Clairton	2	2	4	6
Cornell	2	2	7	5
Avella	1	3	4	7
Frazier	0	3	1	9

Wednesday
Serra at Bentworth
Sacred Heart at Wilkinsburg
St. Joseph at Clairton

Girls
Class AAA

	Sec. 4 W	L	Overall W	L
Ringgold	2	0	8	2
McGuffey	1	1	6	5
Chartiers Valley	1	1	6	6
West Allegheny	1	1	6	6
Keystone Oaks	1	1	4	6
Waynesburg	0	2	3	8

Thursday
Ringgold at McGuffey
West Allegheny at Keystone Oaks

	Sec. 5 W	L	Overall W	L
West Mifflin	2	0	9	3
Thomas Jefferson	2	0	5	7
Elizabeth Forward	1	1	9	2
Steel Valley	1	1	7	3
Yough	0	2	5	7
Belle Vernon Area	0	2	3	7

Thursday
Thomas Jefferson at Belle Vernon Area (6 p.m.)
Steel Valley at Elizabeth Forward
West Mifflin at Yough

Class AA

	Sec. 5 W	L	Overall W	L
Washington	4	0	11	0
Brownsville	3	2	10	3
Beth-Center	3	2	8	4
Bentworth	2	2	7	5
Charleroi	2	2	5	6
C-Houston	1	3	4	8
Burgettstown	0	4	2	11

Wednesday
Charleroi at Yough
Thursday
C-Houston at Charleroi
Washington at Bentworth
Brownsville at Burgettstown

Class A

	Sec. 2 W	L	Overall W	L
Geibel	2	0	6	5
Carmichaels	2	0	4	7
California	1	1	3	7
West Greene	1	1	1	10
Mapletown	0	2	6	4
Jeff-Morgan	0	2	1	10

Thursday
California at Mapletown
Geibel at West Greene
Jeff-Morgan at Carmichaels

	Sec. 3 W	L	Overall W	L
Monessen	3	0	12	0
Serra	1	0	5	2
Clairton	3	1	5	4
Avella	1	1	5	5
Trinity Christian	0	3	3	8
Frazier	0	3	0	12

Wednesday
Monessen at Serra
Thursday
Monessen at Avella
Triniy Christian at Serra

Mid-Atlantic Hockey League

	W	L	T	Pts
Indiana	18	1	0	36
Wooster	8	9	1	17
Jamestown	8	11	0	16
Mon Valley	6	10	3	13
Valley Forge	6	10	1	13

Monday
Indiana at Wooster
Valley Forge at Jamestown
Wednesday
Mon Valley at Wooster (7 p.m.)

Youth basketball

Monessen Future Lady Greyhounds
Shrader's 24, Naccarato's 8
High scorers: Shrader's - Geena Shrader -12.
CTC 27, Chester 15
High scorers: CTC - Chelsea Szakel, 17; Chester - Edzarae Bell, 11.

Moses Jenkins and Florida will take on Michigan in the Capital One Bowl at 1 p.m. on Michigan.

Sports dial

Today
Television
11 a.m. - ESPN - Tennessee vs Wisconsin, college football.
11:30 a.m. - Channel 53 - Arkansas vs Missouri, college football.
1 p.m. - Channel 2 - Virginia vs Texas Tech, college football.
1 p.m. - Channel 4 - Michigan vs Florida, college football.
1 p.m. Channel 11 - Pittsburgh vs Buffalo, hockey.
2:30 p.m. - ESPN - Cincinnati at Louisville, college basketball.
5 p.m. - Channel 4 - Illinois vs Southern California, college football.
8:30 p.m. - Channel 53 - Georgia vs Hawaii, college football.

Bowl glance

Monday's Games
Armed Forces Bowl
At Fort Worth, Texas
California (6-6) vs. Air Force (9-3), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Payout: $1.9 million
South Florida (9-3) vs. Oregon (8-4), 2 p.m. (CBS)
Humanitarian Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Payout: $750,000
Fresno State (8-4) vs. Georgia Tech (7-5), 2 p.m. (ESPN2)
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Payout: $1.6 million
Florida State (7-5) vs. Kentucky (7-5), 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Insight Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Payout: $1.25 million
Indiana (7-5) vs. Oklahoma State (6-6), 6 p.m. (NFLN)
Chick-fil-A Bowl
At Atlanta
Payout: $2.9 million
Clemson (9-3) vs. Auburn (8-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Tuesday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Payout: $3.1 million
Wisconsin (9-3) vs. Tennessee (9-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN)
Cotton Bowl
At Dallas
Payout: $3 million
Missouri (11-2) vs. Arkansas (8-4), 11:30 a.m. (FOX)
Capital One Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payout: $4.25 million
Michigan (8-4) vs. Florida (9-3), 1 p.m. (ABC)
Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Payout: $2.25 million
Virginia (9-3) vs. Texas Tech (8-4), 1 p.m. (CBS)
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Payout: $17 million
Southern California (10-2) vs. Illinois (9-3), 4:30 p.m. (ABC)
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Payout: $17 million
Hawaii (12-0) vs. Georgia (10-2), 8:30 p.m. (FOX)

Wednesday, Jan. 2
Fiesta Bowl
At Glendale, Ariz.
Payout: $17 million
West Virginia (10-2) vs. Oklahoma (11-2), 8 p.m. (FOX)

Thursday, Jan. 3
Orange Bowl
At Miami
Payout: $17 million
Kansas (11-1) vs. Virginia Tech (11-2), 8 p.m. (FOX)

Saturday, Jan. 5
International Bowl
At Toronto
Payout: $750,000
Rutgers (7-4) vs. Ball State (7-5), Noon (ESPN2)

Sunday, Jan. 6
GMAC Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Payout: $750,000
Tulsa (9-4) vs. Bowling Green (8-4), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Jan. 7
BCS National Championship
At New Orleans
Payout: $17 million
Ohio State (11-1) vs. LSU (11-2), 8 p.m. (FOX)

Saturday, Jan. 12
Hula Bowl at Honolulu
Aina (East) vs. Kai (West), 8 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 19
East-West Shrine Classic
At Houston
East vs. West, 7 p.m. (ESPN2)

Saturday, Jan. 26
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
North vs. South, 4 p.m. (NFLN)

NFL playoffs

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 5
Washington at Seattle, 4:30 p.m. (NBC)
Jacksonville at Pittsburgh, 8 p.m. (NBC)
Sunday, Jan. 6
N.Y. Giants at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Tennessee at San Diego, 4:30 p.m. (CBS)

Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 12
Seattle, Tampa Bay or N.Y. Giants at Green Bay, 4:30 p.m. (FOX)
Pittsburgh, Jacksonville, Tennessee at New England, 8 p.m. (CBS)
Sunday, Jan. 13
San Diego, Pittsburgh or Jacksonville at Indianapolis, 1 p.m. (CBS)
Tampa Bay, N.Y. Giants or Washington at Dallas, 4:30 p.m. (FOX)

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 20
NFC
To be determined
AFC
To be determined

Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 3
Glendale, Ariz.
To be determined

AFC leaders

Quarterbacks

	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
T. Brady,N.E.	578	398	4806	50	8
R'berger, Pit.	404	264	3154	32	11
Garrard, Jac.	325	208	2509	18	3
Manning, Ind.	515	337	4040	31	14
Cutler, Den.	467	297	3497	20	14
Schaub, Hou.	289	192	2241	9	9
Palmer, Cin.	575	373	4131	26	20
Pennington, NY	260	179	1765	10	9
Rosenfels, Hou.	240	154	1684	15	12
Anderson, Cle.	527	298	3787	29	19

Rushers

	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Tomlinson, S.D.	315	1474	4.7	49	15
Parker, Pit.	321	1316	4.1	32	2
Lewis, Cle.	298	1304	4.4	66t	9
McGahee, Bal.	294	1207	4.1	46t	7
Taylor, Jac.	223	1202	5.4	80t	5
T. Jones,NY-J	310	1119	3.6	36	1
Lynch, Buf.	280	1115	4.0	56t	7
White, Ten.	303	1110	3.7	28	7
Addai, Ind.	261	1072	4.1	23	12
Fargas, Oak.	222	1009	4.5	48	4

Receivers

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Welker, N.E.	112	1175	10.5	42	8
H'zadeh, Cin.	112	1143	10.2	42t	12
Wayne, Ind.	104	1510	14.5	64	10
Mason, Bal.	103	1087	10.6	79t	5
Marshall, Den.	102	1325	13.0	68t	7
Gonzalez, K.C.	99	1172	11.8	31	5
Moss, N.E.	98	1493	15.2	65t	23
C. Johnson,Cin.	93	1440	15.5	70t	8
Cotchery, NY-J	82	1130	13.8	50	2
Winslow, Cle.	82	1106	13.5	49	5

Scoring
Touchdowns

	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Moss, N.E.	23	0	23	0	138
Tomlinson, S.D.	18	15	3	0	108
Edwards, Cle.	16	0	16	0	96
Addai, Ind.	15	12	3	0	92
H'zadeh, Cin.	12	0	12	0	72
Clark, Ind.	11	0	11	0	66
Lewis, Cle.	11	9	2	0	66
Jones-Drew, Jac.	10	9	0	1	60
Wayne, Ind.	10	0	10	0	60
R. Williams,Jac.	10	0	10	0	60

Kicking

	PAT	FG	LG	Pts
Gost'ski, N.E.	74-74	21-24	45	137
Bironas, Ten.	28-28	5-39	56	133
Graham, Cin.	37-37	31-34	48	130
Dawson, Cle.	42-43	26-30	51	120
Kaeding, S.D.	46-46	24-27	51	118
Vinatieri, Ind.	49-51	23-29	39	118
K. Brown,Hou.	40-40	25-29	57	115
Elam, Den.	33-33	27-31	50	114
Reed, Pit.	44-44	23-25	49	113
Nugent, NY-J	23-24	29-36	50	110

NFC leaders

Quarterbacks

	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
Romo, Dal.	520	335	4211	36	19
Favre, G.B.	535	356	4155	28	15
Garcia, T.B.	327	209	2440	13	4
Hasselbk, Sea.	562	352	3966	28	12
McNabb, Phi.	473	291	3324	19	7
Warner, Ariz	451	281	3417	27	17
Brees, N.O.	652	440	4423	28	18
Kitna, Det.	561	355	4068	18	20
Campbell,Was.	417	250	2700	12	11
Harrington, Atl.	348	215	2215	7	8

Rushers

	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Peterson, Min.	238	1341	5.6	73t	12
Westbrook, Phi.	278	1333	4.8	36	7
Portis, Was.	325	1262	3.9	32	11
James, Ariz	324	1222	3.8	27	7
Gore, S.F.	260	1102	4.2	43t	5
Jacobs, NY-G	202	1009	5.0	43t	4
S. Jackson,St.L	237	1002	4.2	54	5
Barber, Dal.	204	975	4.8	54	10
Grant, G.B.	188	956	5.1	66t	8
Graham, T.B.	222	898	4.0	28t	10

Receivers

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Fitzgerald, Ariz	100	1409	14.1	48t	10
Colston, N.O.	98	1202	12.3	45	11
Witten, Dal.	96	1145	11.9	53	7
Engram, Sea.	94	1147	12.2	49	6
Holt, St.L	93	1189	12.8	40	7
Westbrook, Phi.	90	771	8.6	57t	5
Smith, Car.	87	1002	11.5	74t	7
White, Atl.	83	1202	14.5	69t	6
Driver, G.B.	82	1048	12.8	47	2
Owens, Dal.	81	1355	16.7	52t	15

Scoring
Touchdowns

	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Owens, Dal.	15	0	15	0	90
Peterson, Min.	13	12	1	0	78
Barber, Dal.	12	10	2	0	72
Burress, NY-G	12	0	12	0	72
Jennings, G.B.	12	0	12	0	72
Westbrook, Phi.	12	7	5	0	72
Burleson, Sea.	11	0	9	2	66
Colston, N.O.	11	0	11	0	66
Portis, Was.	11	11	0	0	66
Fitzgerald, Ariz	10	0	10	0	60
Graham, T.B.	10	10	0	0	60

Kicking

	PAT	FG	LG	Pts
Crosby, G.B.	48-48	31-39	53	141
Folk, Dal.	53-53	26-31	53	131
Brown, Sea.	43-43	28-34	54	127
Gould, Chi.	33-33	31-36	49	126
Hanson, Det.	35-36	29-35	53	122
Bryant, T.B.	34-34	28-33	49	118
Suisham, Was.	29-30	29-35	50	116
Rackers, Ariz	47-48	21-30	52	110
Tynes, NY-G	40-42	23-27	48	109
Akers, Phi.	36-36	24-32	53	108

NHL standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	21	14	3	45	92	91
N.Y. Rangers	20	15	4	44	97	94
Pittsburgh	20	16	2	42	109	111
Philadelphia	19	14	4	42	115	105
N.Y. Islanders	19	16	2	40	89	102

Northeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Ottawa	25	9	4	54	136	104
Montreal	19	13	7	45	116	109
Buffalo	19	16	2	40	114	105
Boston	18	16	4	40	97	103
Toronto	15	16	8	38	111	123

Southeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	20	17	3	43	125	128
Atlanta	19	19	1	39	109	127
Florida	18	18	3	39	98	106
Washington	15	19	5	35	106	122
Tampa Bay	15	21	3	33	112	130

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	29	7	3	61	141	86
Chicago	19	15	3	41	112	104
St. Louis	18	14	4	40	92	96
Columbus	17	15	6	40	94	92
Nashville	17	18	2	36	102	114

Northwest Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	22	13	4	48	104	91
Minnesota	22	14	2	46	101	104
Colorado	21	15	2	44	112	108
Calgary	18	14	7	43	114	116
Edmonton	16	19	4	36	101	118

Pacific Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	23	12	4	50	122	99
San Jose	21	12	5	47	97	87
Anaheim	19	17	5	43	101	112
Phoenix	17	18	1	35	90	98
Los Angeles	14	24	2	30	107	131

Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss or shootout loss.

Monday's Games
Atlanta at Boston, 1 p.m.
Edmonton at Columbus, 6 p.m.
St. Louis at Detroit, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Colorado at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Carolina, 8 p.m.
Nashville at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Today's Games
Pittsburgh vs. Buffalo at Ralph Wilson Stadium, 1 p.m.
Ottawa at Washington, 4 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

Men's basketball Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 29, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

	W-L	Pts	Pvs
1. N. Carolina(45)	13-0	1,772	1
2. Memphis(26)	11-0	1,744	2
3. Kansas(1)	13-0	1,667	3
4. Washington St.	12-0	1,534	4
5. UCLA	12-1	1,499	5
6. Michigan St.	12-1	1,419	7
7. Georgetown	9-1	1,324	8
8. Tennessee	12-1	1,259	11
9. Duke	10-1	1,252	10
10. Marquette	10-1	1,157	12
11. Indiana	11-1	1,054	13
12. Texas A&M	12-1	1,000	14
13. Pittsburgh	11-1	875	6
14. Texas	11-2	857	9
15. Vanderbilt	12-0	780	15
16. Butler	12-1	720	16
17. Villanova	10-1	601	18
18. Mississippi	12-0	464	22
19. Clemson	11-1	424	21
20. Dayton	11-1	385	—
21. Arizona	9-3	306	17
22. Southern Cal	9-3	264	24
23. Rhode Island	13-1	257	25
24. Stanford	11-1	242	—
25. Wisconsin	10-2	223	—

Others receiving votes: Saint Mary's, Calif. 85, Miami 59, Oklahoma 46, BYU 27, Baylor 19, West Virginia 15, Virginia 11, Xavier 11, Houston 10, Drake 8, Massachusetts 8, Arizona St. 6, Gonzaga 5, Notre Dame 3, Oregon 3, Florida 2, Louisville 1, New Mexico 1, Sam Houston St. 1.

Women's basketball Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 29:

	W-L	Pts	Pvs
1. Connecticut(49)	10-0	1,249	1
2. Stanford(1)	12-1	1,177	2
3. Tennessee	10-1	1,145	3
4. N. Carolina	13-1	1,083	4
5. Maryland	16-1	1,052	5
6. Rutgers	9-2	1,008	6
7. Georgia	12-0	961	7
8. Oklahoma	9-2	910	9
9. Baylor	10-1	822	10
10. California	11-2	742	11
11. LSU	10-3	735	8
12. Duke	10-3	675	13
13. Texas A&M	11-2	636	14
14. NotreDame	11-1	615	16
15. DePaul	11-1	484	12
16. Texas	11-2	446	19
17. WestVirginia	10-2	441	18
18. Auburn	12-2	386	15
19. OldDominion	9-3	272	23
20. G. Washington	10-3	242	22
21. OhioSt.	9-3	228	17
22. Wyoming	11-1	190	21
23. Colorado	10-2	137	25
24. OklahomaSt.	12-1	127	24
25. Arkansas	14-0	89	—

Others receiving votes: Texas Tech 82, Georgia Tech 61, Louisville 55, Vanderbilt 45, Michigan St. 36, Pittsburgh 22, Arizona St. 21, Minnesota 17, Illinois St. 13, Syracuse 13, Virginia 10, James Madison 6, Middle Tennessee 6, Florida St. 5, N.C. State 2, Hartford 1, Liberty 1, Utah 1, Wake Forest 1.

Cal U lineups

Women
California University - 74
Johnson, 3-1-8; Williams, 8-7-23; Andrews, 3-1-7; Dubyak, 2-2-6; Smith, 6-0-12; Victor, 0-0-0; Mance, 5-6-18; DiPietro, 0-0-0. Totals: FG - 27 (58), F - 17 (27), T - 74.
Seton Hill - 68
Lintner, 6-8-20; Farchi, 3-3-9; Haitz, 6-6-18; Wilmus, 1-0-2; Himes, 3-0-9; Petrini, 2-0-5; Micaleti, 0-0-0; Huck, 0-0-0; Emberg, 2-0-4; Whittington, 0-1-1; Eberleln, 0-0-0. Totals: FG - 23 (51), F - 18 (24), T - 68.
Halftime score: 37-35, California.
Three-pointers: California (3-10) Mance 2, Johnson. Seton Hill (4-18) Himes 3, Petrini.

NBA standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	26	3	.897	—
Toronto	16	15	.516	11
New Jersey	14	16	.467	12 1/2
Philadelphia	13	17	.433	13 1/2
New York	8	21	.276	18

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	21	11	.656	—
Atlanta	15	13	.536	4
Washington	15	14	.517	4 1/2
Charlotte	10	18	.357	9
Miami	8	23	.258	12 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	23	7	.767	—
Indiana	15	16	.484	8 1/2
Cleveland	14	17	.452	9 1/2
Chicago	11	17	.393	11
Milwaukee	11	18	.379	11 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	21	8	.724	—
New Orleans	20	10	.667	1 1/2
Dallas	20	11	.645	2
Houston	15	15	.500	6 1/2
Memphis	8	22	.267	13 1/2

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	18	12	.600	—
Portland	18	12	.600	—
Utah	16	16	.500	3
Seattle	9	21	.300	9
Minnesota	4	25	.138	13 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	22	9	.710	—
L.A. Lakers	19	11	.633	2 1/2
Golden State	18	13	.581	4
Sacramento	11	18	.379	10
L.A. Clippers	9	19	.321	11 1/2

Monday's Games
Orlando at Chicago, 2 p.m.
Indiana at Charlotte, 2 p.m.
Milwaukee at Detroit, 3:30 p.m.
Golden State at Houston, 7 p.m.
Portland at Utah, 8 p.m.
Toronto at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Today's Games
No games scheduled

Latest Line

NFL

Favorite	Points	Underdog
Saturday, Jan 5		
Wild Card Round		
SEATTLE	4	(40) Washington
Jacksonville	1	(37) PITT.
Sunday, Jan 6		
Wild Card Round		
TAMPA BAY	3	(39) NY Giants
x-SAN DIEGO	NL	(XX) Tennessee

x-Tenn QB V. Young is questionable.

College Football Bowl Games

Favorite	Points	Underdog
Outback Bowl		
Raymond James Stadium-Tampa, FL.		
Tennessee	2 (58)	Wisconsin
Cotton Bowl		
Cotton Bowl-Dallas, TX.		
Missouri	3 1/2 (69)	Arkansas
Capital One Bowl		
Citrus Bowl Stadium-Orlando, FL.		
Florida	10 1/2 (59)	Michigan
Gator Bowl		
Municipal Stadium-Jacksonville, FL.		
Texas Tech	6 (59)	Virginia
Rose Bowl		
Rose Bowl-Pasadena, CA.		
Southern Cal	14 (50)	Illinois
Sugar Bowl		
Louisiana Superdome		
New Orleans, LA.		
Georgia	8 (69)	Hawaii
Wednesday, Jan 2		
Fiesta Bowl		
University of Phoenix Stadium		
Oklahoma	7 1/2 (63)	W. Virginia
Thursday, Jan 3		
Orange Bowl		
Dolphins Stadium-Miami, FL.		
Virginia Tech	3 1/2 (53)	Kansas
Saturday, Jan 5		
International Bowl		
Rogers Centre-Toronto, Canada.		
Rutgers	10 (60)	Ball State
Sunday, Jan 6		
GMAC Bowl		
Ladd Peebles Stadium-Mobile, AL.		
Tulsa	5 (76)	Bowling Gr.
Monday, Jan 7		
BCS Championship Game		
Louisiana Superdome		
New Orleans, LA.		
Lsu	4 (49)	Ohio State

Dayton reaches Top 25

By JIM O'CONNELL
AP Basketball Writer

Dayton was impressive with its road win over Louisville. The Flyers went a lot further with their 25-point rout of previously unbeaten Pittsburgh last weekend, a victory that moved them into The Associated Press' Top 25 for the first time in four years.

"That kind of win was maybe shocking to everybody, including myself, but I hope the ranking is for the 12-game body of work to this point of the season," Dayton coach Brian Gregory said Monday. "It's great recognition for our program and the effort our guys have put forth so far this season but they are mature enough to realize it is a long season."

The 80-55 win over then-No. 6 Pittsburgh on Saturday was the 10th straight for the Flyers (11-1) since a 67-56 loss at George Mason. They joined the poll at No. 20, their first ranking since a three-week run in December 2003.

North Carolina remained No. 1, the spot it has held since the preseason poll. Memphis and Kansas stayed second and third for the fifth straight week.

Stanford and Wisconsin joined Dayton as newcomers this week, replacing Miami, BYU and West Virginia.

Brian Roberts had 31 points for Dayton in the win over Pittsburgh. The senior guard is in the top five in seven statistical categories in the Atlantic 10.

"I've been saying all along that he is one of the most efficient guards in the country, averaging 19 points on just 11 shots a game while having a great assist-to-turnover ratio," Gregory said. "But with what he's done this year that's not good enough," Gregory said. "He is one of the best all-around guards in the country. He has run our offense but knows when he has to take over and he has carried us in stretches."

The Tar Heels (13-0), who easily beat Nevada and Valparaiso this week, received 45 first-place votes and 1,772 points from the 72-member national media panel.

Memphis (11-0), which beat Arizona 76-63 on Saturday, were No. 1 on 26 ballots and had 1,744 points, Kansas (13-0), which beat Yale in its only game last week, received the only other first-place vote.

Penguins (FROM PAGE ONE)

The Penguins equipment staff talked with the Steelers to get tips on what kind of gear the players should wear.

"If we're going into the wind for two periods, it might be a little different," Sidney Crosby said. "It's something you have to think about. ... I'm not really sure what to expect."

Ryan Malone, whose father, Greg, played for the Penguins in the 1970s and 1980s, considered wearing his dad's old gloves — which are much bigger than today's — not only as a tribute but also to stay warm.

"(In) Chatham, New Brunswick, my dad's hometown, every night the firemen go around and ice over the basketball courts," Malone said. "Can you imagine every basketball court in Pittsburgh being flooded for ice rinks? It's definitely going to be something special."

At least Malone gets to wear one of the light blue jerseys like those the Penguins donned from 1967-79, until they sided with the Pirates and Steelers and went with black and gold. The Penguins will wear the old-look blue sweaters for this game only.

Some Penguins players aren't big fans of an experimental game like this one counting in the standings. But one of the selling points for the league is that many of the 70,000-plus fans can someday tell future generations they saw Crosby play outdoors in a for-real game.

Only three years ago, Crosby and his Rimouski teammates secretly played three

COMICS

CATHY® by Cathy Guisewite

LINE UP, FAMILY! IT'S TIME FOR OUR NEW YEAR WEIGH-IN ???
AS MATRIARCH, I WILL BRAVELY GO FIRST AND SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE!
THE NUMBER MIGHT BE HIGH BECAUSE: I OVER-MOISTURIZED MY FACE! I HAVE MY GLASSES ON! THERE'S DOG HAIR ON MY BATHROBE! I SWALLOWED WATER WHEN I BRUSHED MY TEETH! THE SADNESS OF THE HOLIDAYS ENDING HAS GIVEN ME A HEAVY HEART!
I THOUGHT YOU MEANT YOU'D GET ON THE SCALE FIRST.
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS

GARFIELD® by Jim Davis

ARLO and JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson

HAU'OLI MAKAHIKI HOU!
IT'S MIDNIGHT IN HAWAII!
THAT'S "HAPPY NEW YEAR" IN HAWAIIAN!
MAYBE IF WE ACTUALLY WERE THERE...
THAT'S WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT THE INTERNET!

Classic PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz

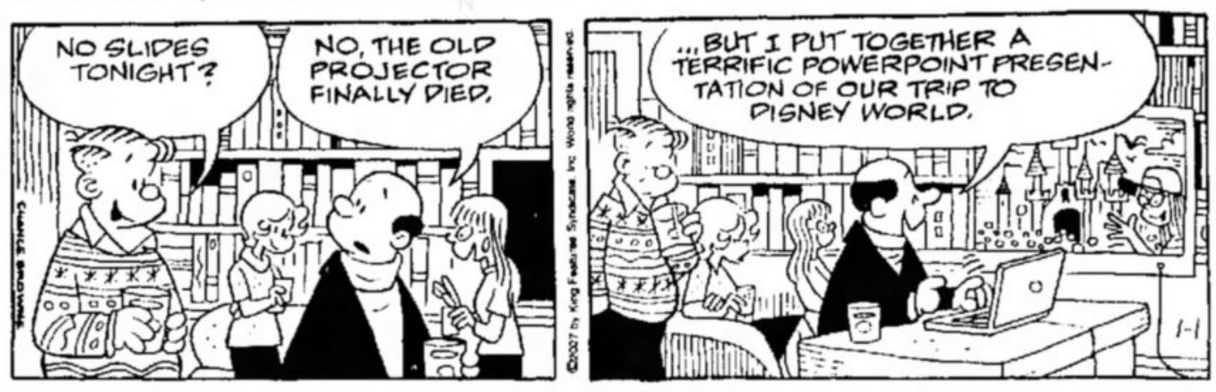
YOU'RE SURE SHE'S A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER, MARCIE?
OUR REGULAR TEACHER IS TALLER AND WEARS GLASSES
I APOLOGIZE AGAIN, MA'AM.. I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE A SUBSTITUTE..
CAME RIGHT IN OFF THE BENCH, HUH?

MONTY® by Jim Meddick

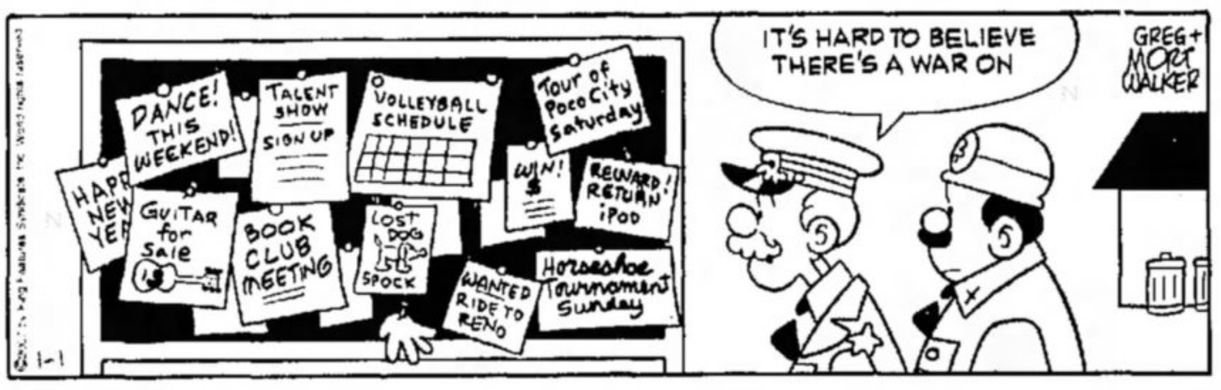
E-Mail: JimMeddick@aol.com

LUCKY GRETCH LET US CRASH ON HER FLOOR...SOME DESIGNATED DRIVER YOU TURNED OUT TO BE!
SHHH... I'VE GOT A HANGOVER
I'M NOT SURPRISED, WITH ALL THOSE BEERS YOU POLISHED OFF..
SAY..WHAT TIME IS IT ANYWAY?
I'LL CHECK.
OWW!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THE LIGHT FROM MY INDIGLO HURT MY BRAIN.

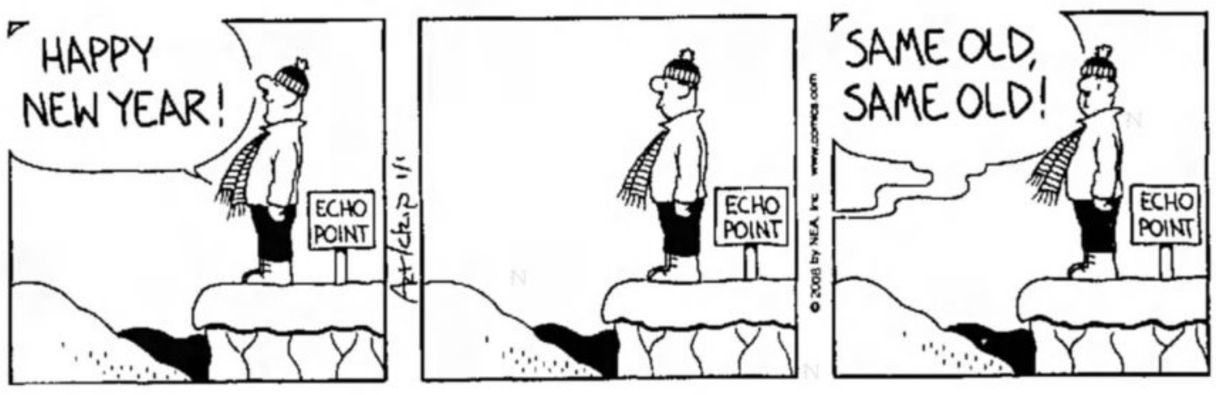
HI & LOIS® by Mort Walker and Dick Browne


NO SLIDES TONIGHT?
NO, THE OLD PROJECTOR FINALLY DIED.
...BUT I PUT TOGETHER A TERRIFIC POWERPOINT PRESENTATION OF OUR TRIP TO DISNEY WORLD.

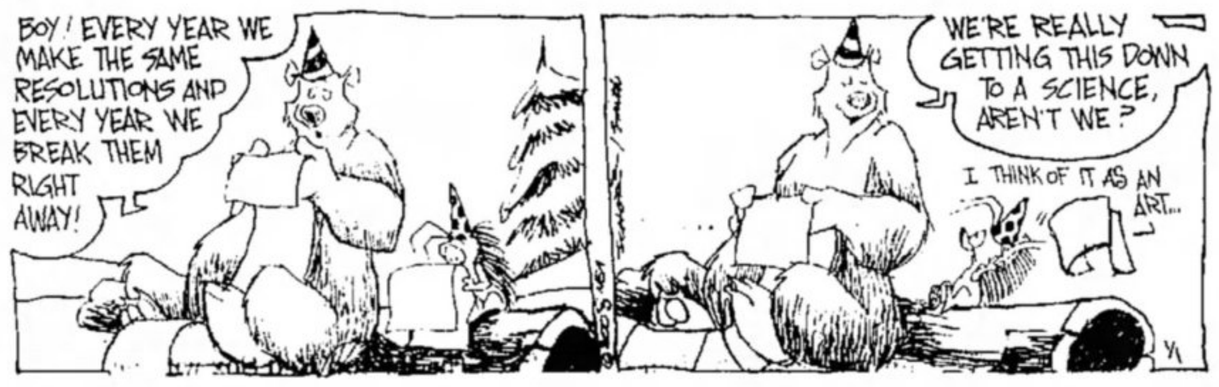
BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



BORN LOSER® by Art Sansom



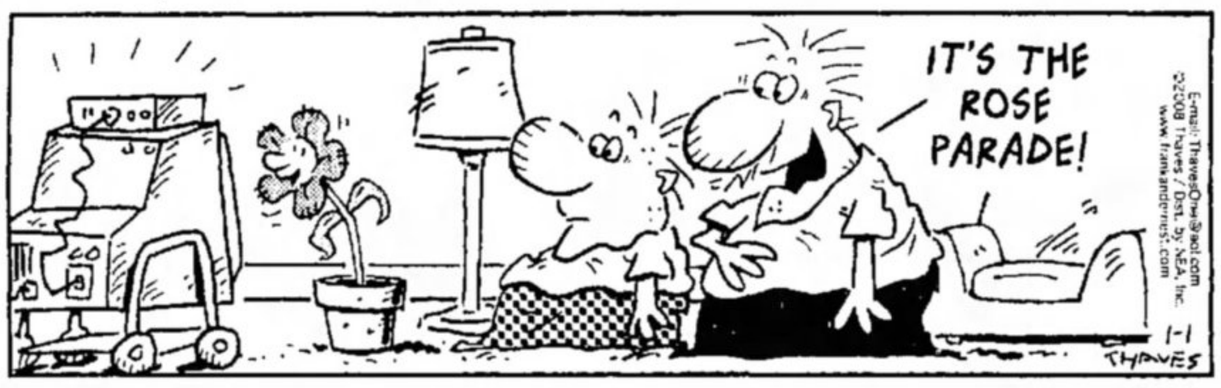
GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr


BOY! EVERY YEAR WE MAKE THE SAME RESOLUTIONS AND EVERY YEAR WE BREAK THEM RIGHT AWAY!
WE'RE REALLY GETTING THIS DOWN TO A SCIENCE, AREN'T WE?
I THINK OF IT AS AN ART...

COW AND BOY® by Mark Leiknes

I WONDER IF THIS APPLE IS ACTUALLY GOOD FOR ME.
SEEMS LIKE MOST OF OUR FOOD AND DRINK IS TEEMING WITH PESTICIDES, GROWTH HORMONES OR STEROIDS. IF ONLY THERE WAS SOMETHING WE COULD DO TO STOP IT.
AHEM.
TINK TINK
NOT NOW, COW. I'M THINKING.

FRANK and ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



HERMAN® by Jim Unger

"Aren't you going to wish me a Happy New Year?"

KIT'N' CARLYLE® by Larry Wright

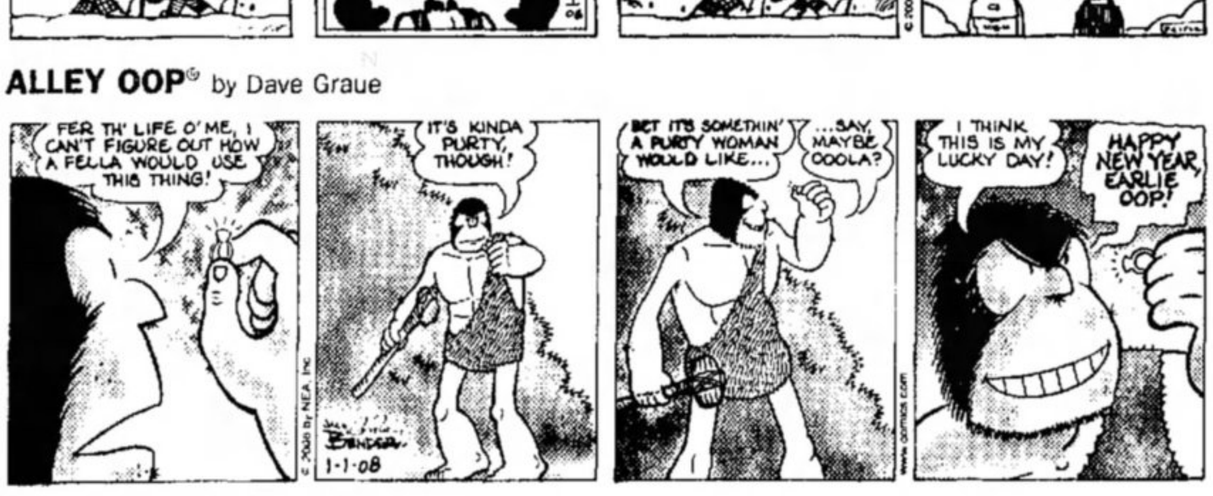
kitncarlyle@comcast.net
I HOPE HER HEART IS OKAY. OTHERWISE LEAPING ON HER AT 3:30 A.M. COULD BE A BAD THING.
Z
© 2008 by NEA, Inc.
www.comics.com

SOUP TO NUTZ® by Rick Stromoski

BIG NATE® by Lincolin Peirce

WELL? DID YOU GET A DOG FOR CHRISTMAS?
HA! OF COURSE NOT!
...ALTHOUGH MY DAD CLAIMS HE GOT ME THE "NEXT BEST THING"!
WHAT'S THE NEXT BEST THING?
A UCONN HUSKIES T-SHIRT AND A COPY OF "OLD YELLER"!
PARENTS ARE SO LAME.
I'LL BE RE-GIFTING.

ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue


FER TH' LIFE O' ME, I CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW A FELLA WOULD USE THIS THING!
IT'S KINDA PURTY, THOUGH!
BET ITS SOMETHIN' A PURTY WOMAN WOULD LIKE...
...SAY, MAYBE OOOLA?
I THINK THIS IS MY LUCKY DAY!
HAPPY NEW YEAR, EARLIE OOP!

MARK TRAIL® by Jack Elrod

AFTER I SHOT BULL, I MANAGED TO GET JOHNNY'S RIFLE BACK IN HIS BOAT BEFORE HE LEFT THE TRADING POST!
IT WAS A GOOD PLAN, I JUST DIDN'T EXPECT TO GET HIT IN THE HEAD BY BULL...LATER I WENT TO THE HOSPITAL IN THE CITY TO GET THE CUT ON MY HEAD STITCHED UP...
THAT'S WHEN X-RAYS SHOWED THAT I HAD A TUMOR IN MY HEAD... I GUESS OLD BULL IS GETTING HIS REVENGE!
JACK ELROD

The Valley Independent Crossword Puzzle

"Aren't you going to wish me a Happy New Year?"

ACROSS

1 Dallas NBAer
4 Crocus "bulb"
8 Drops on the grass
11 Is, for them
12 Band instrument
13 Tiberius' garb
14 Orbits
16 Enthralled
17 Promise
18 Stop standing
20 Holds up well
21 Delivery trucks
24 Cover crop
28 Have a mortgage
30 Observance
33 Go — — diet
34 Main role
35 Old-time exclamation
36 Come to the rescue
37 Boulevard liners
38 Rx giver, informally
39 Bear witness
41 Kind of hog
43 Bison features
47 Fasten down a tent
49 Lame excuse (hyph.)
50 Longings
53 Unreal
55 Not into the wind
56 Boxing match
57 Penn. neighbor
58 Hobby shop buy
59 Meadow browsers
60 Get the point

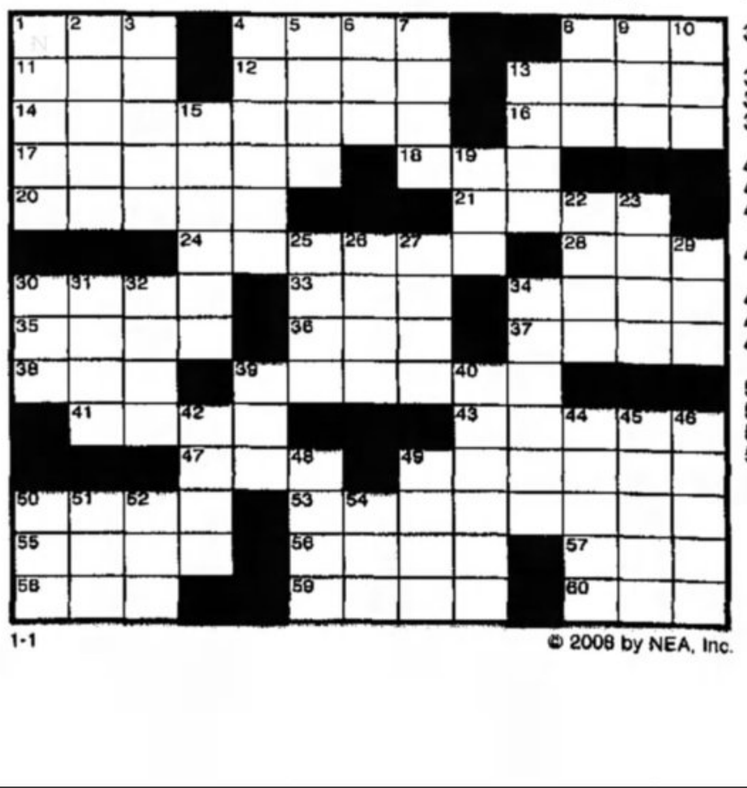
DOWN

1 Rain forest parrot
2 Pop up
3 Vice —
4 Soup or salad
5 Oscar's kin
6 Decay
7 Army chow
8 Follow relentlessly
9 Self-esteem
10 Move to and fro
13 Cheerio! (hyph.)
15 Got frizzy
19 — had it!
22 Carol
23 Did laps
25 Victim
26 Ounce or inch
27 Whipped up
29 MS polishers
30 Valentine color
31 Frankenstein's helper
32 Baja fast food
34 Pauses
39 Juice-based drink
40 Yells
42 Church alcove
44 Frames of mind
45 Blender button
46 Pizazz
48 Jeer at
49 Mystery board game
50 Chatter away
51 Yale athlete
52 Fish-catching rig
54 First gear

Answer to Previous Puzzle

T	O	L	E		T	A	B		N	A	D	A
O	D	O	R		U	M	A		O	R	A	L
M	E	N	U		F	I	R	E	S	A	L	E
	S	E	D	A	T	E		G	O	B	I	
			I	D	S		E	R	A			
R	I	F	T	S		C	R	E	P	E	S	
C	O	L	E		W	O	N	T		R	I	O
A	N	A		S	E	R	E		D	I	L	L
	S	K	A	T	E	D		C	Y	C	L	E
			Z	I	P		B	A	N			
	P	L	A	N		G	A	R	A	G	E	
C	A	U	L	K	I	N	G		S	O	L	O
U	R	G	E		R	A	E		T	R	I	O
M	E	S	A		A	W	L		Y	E	A	H

GET MORE in the new "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" series from Quill Driver. Call 800-605-7176.



1-1

© 2008 by NEA, Inc.

release dates: January 5-11 1-1/08

The Mini Page

™ Especially for kids and their families ™

© 2008 Universal Press Syndicate

Created by BETTY DEBNAM

from The Mini Page © 2008 Universal Press Syndicate

A 2008 Calendar for Kids

Keep this 2008 calendar and watch for coming special events.

The Summer Olympics and a presidential election are two exciting events coming up this year.

Going for the medals

In August, the **Summer Olympics** will begin in Beijing, China. Thousands of athletes from all over the world will gather there Aug. 8-24 to compete in more than 40 sports. Like all host cities, Beijing has been preparing for the Olympics by building new arenas and stadiums and fixing up older ones.

The Mini Page will feature articles about China this year.

Going to the polls

November will be an important month for Americans. On Tuesday, Nov. 4, voters will choose **a new U.S. president**.

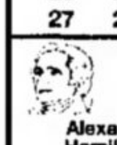
Between now and November, kids and adults will have many chances to hear the candidates share their ideas about leading the country. Listening to their thoughts will help voters make a choice.

Many members of Congress and local representatives will also be up for election. It will be an exciting time!

January

10 Islamic New Year

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



11 Alexander Hamilton's birthday

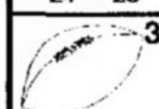
15 Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday

17 Benjamin Franklin's birthday

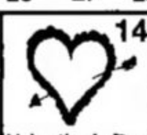
February

Black History Month

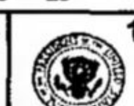
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	



3 Super Bowl XLII

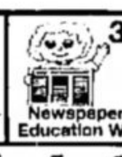


14 Valentine's Day



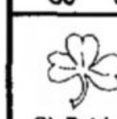
18 Presidents Day

March



3-7 Newspaper in Education Week

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



17 St. Patrick's Day

20 First day of Spring

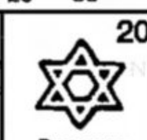
23 Easter

April

National Poetry Month

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

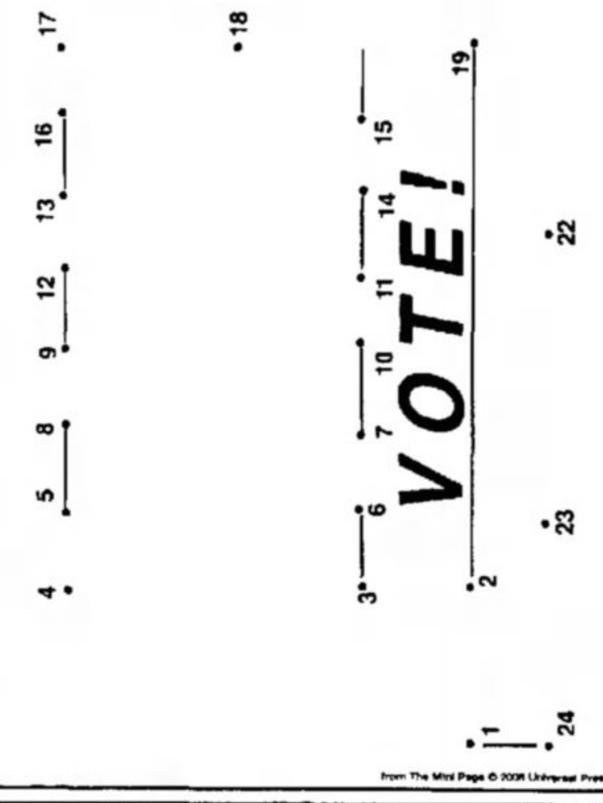
13-19 National Library Week



20 Passover

22 Earth Day

Go dot to dot and color this popular item during election season.

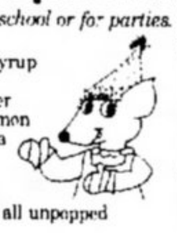


from The Mini Page © 2008 Universal Press Syndicate

Rookie™ Cookie's Recipe

Sweet and Salty Popcorn

This is a healthy and delicious snack for after school or for parties.



You'll need:

- 1 bag of microwave popcorn (approximately 8 to 9 cups popped)
- 4 cups multigrain toasted oat cereal
- 1 cup peanuts
- 1 cup golden raisins
- 1/2 cup dried apricots, chopped
- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

What to do:

1. Mix popcorn, cereal, peanuts and fruit in large bowl. (Remove all unpopped kernels.)
2. Heat corn syrup, honey, butter and cinnamon to boiling in a small saucepan.
3. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla.
4. Pour syrup mixture over popcorn mixture. Toss gently to coat. Spread in large ungreased shallow pan.
5. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Stir every five minutes.
6. Allow to cool and stir occasionally to prevent sticking. Store loosely covered.

**You will need an adult's help with this recipe.*

from The Mini Page © 2008 Universal Press Syndicate

™ Gus Goodsport's Report

Supersport: Tony Romo

photo courtesy Dallas Cowboys

Height: 6-2 **Birthdate: 4-21-80**
Weight: 224 **Native of: San Diego**

Just over a year ago, Tony Romo was a reserve quarterback spending Sunday afternoons on the Dallas Cowboys bench.

Now he's one of the top quarterbacks in the NFL, with the second-highest rating behind New England Patriots star Tom Brady.

Romo got a chance to start during the 2006 season, made the most of his opportunity and wound up playing in the Pro Bowl. This year he has already passed for more than 3,500 yards, with more than 35 touchdowns, and has helped the Cowboys move into title contention.

Romo, whose full name is Antonio Ramiro Romo, starred at Eastern Illinois in college, but wasn't drafted. The Cowboys signed him as a free agent in 2003.

In addition to throwing touchdown passes, Romo is involved in multiple community and charity projects in Dallas. To many people, the former bench-warmer has become King of the Cowboys.

Meet Debi Derryberry

photo courtesy Jun Lauer

Debi Derryberry is an actor and singer who has made two children's CDs, "What a Way to Play!" and "Very Derryberry." She began making children's CDs after her son was born.

Debi grew up in Indio, Calif. She began playing the guitar when she was 9. One of the songs she wrote then is on her CD now.

She was captain of her high school gymnastics team and a member of the student council. She went to college planning to be a doctor. But after graduating, she changed careers and began selling real estate.

She then became an actress who specialized in being the voices for certain characters. She was the voice of Jimmy Neutron in the movie "Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius," Whispers in "Whispers: An Elephant's Tale," and Shelby in "Legend of Secret Pass."

She has been the voices of characters in several TV shows as well, including "Oswald the Octopus" and "Curious George."

Debi was the stunt double who actually rode the whale in the movie "Free Willy." She is active in animal rescue charities.

from The Mini Page © 2008 Universal Press Syndicate

A 2007 Almanac

Can you remember some big events from last year? Sometimes things happen so fast that we forget them.

Here are some memorable moments from 2007:

January

- **President Gerald Ford's** funeral.
- **Rep. Nancy Pelosi** of California becomes the first female speaker of the House of Representatives.

Pelosi

February

- The first new presidential **dollar coin** is introduced.
- The **Indianapolis Colts** win Super Bowl XLI.

March/April

- The **Florida Gators** win the NCAA basketball championship game against Ohio State.

May

- Tornado destroys **Greensburg, Kan.**
- **Gas prices** are higher than ever.
- **"Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End"** opens in theaters.

June

- The **San Antonio Spurs** win the NBA Championship, beating the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Blair

- Apple's popular **iPhone** is released for sale.
- British Prime Minister **Tony Blair** resigns.

July

- **"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows"** by J.K. Rowling hits the bookstores.

- Spanish cyclist **Alberto Contador** wins the Tour de France.

August

Morgan

- **Barbara Morgan**, a teacher from Idaho, launches into space aboard the space shuttle Endeavour.
- An eight-lane **bridge in Minneapolis** collapses into the Mississippi River.
- Mattel pulls **9 million toys** and other products off the store shelves because of safety problems.

- **"High School Musical 2"** premieres.

September

- Switzerland's tennis star **Roger Federer** wins his fourth U.S. Open.
- Famous singer **Luciano Pavarotti** dies.

October

Gore

- Former **Vice President Al Gore** receives the Nobel Peace Prize for his help in educating the world about global warming.
- **Wildfires** destroy many neighborhoods in southern California.
- The **Boston Red Sox** win the World Series.

November

- Television writers begin a **strike**, or a work stoppage. They want more pay for shows that appear on DVDs and the Internet.

December

- Citizens of Oregon and Washington are without homes after **strong storms** bring heavy rain and flooding.

May

Asian Pacific-American Heritage Month

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

11 Mother's Day

12-18 Children's Book Week

26 Memorial Day

June

14 Flag Day

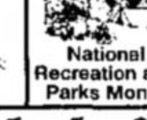
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

15 Father's Day

21 First day of summer

28 Great American Backyard Campout

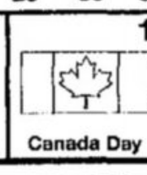
July



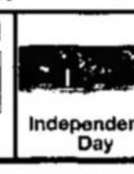
National Recreation and Parks Month

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

National Ice Cream Month



1 Canada Day

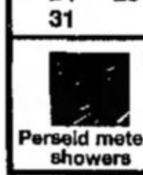


4 Independence Day

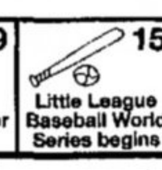
August

1 Respect for Parents Day

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



9 Perseid meteor showers



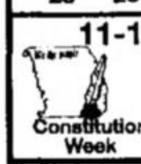
15 Little League Baseball World Series begins

19 National Aviation Day

September

2-30 Ramadan

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



11-18 Constitution Week

15 Hispanic Heritage Month

22 First day of fall

October

5 U.N. World Teachers' Day

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

9 Yom Kippur

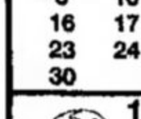
13 Columbus Day holiday

31 Halloween

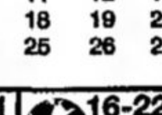
November

American Indian Heritage Month

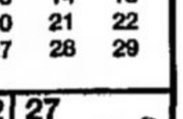
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



11 Veterans Day



16-22 National Geography Awareness Week



27 Thanksgiving

2008 is a leap year!

The type of calendar we use today, the Gregorian calendar, was developed more than 400 years ago, when people used the regular path of the sun, stars and moon to mark the passage of time. In order to keep the calendar in step with this heavenly pattern, an extra day was added to February every four years. In most years, February has only 28 days. This year we have an extra day, Feb. 29.

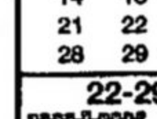
Look through your newspaper for co ing event s in your co unity.

Next week, The Mini Page is about Barbara Morgan, a teacher in space.

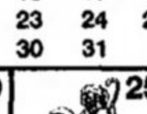
December

21 First day of winter

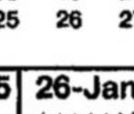
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



22-29 Hanukkah



25 Christmas



26-Jan. 1 Kwanzaa

from The Mini Page © 2008 Universal Press Syndicate

™ MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Robert: What do you call the largest moth in the world?
Carol: A mammoth!

Alexander: What is a myth?
Winton: An unmarried female moth!

Kenneth: How do you make a moth bawl?
Kevin: Smack him with a flyswatter!

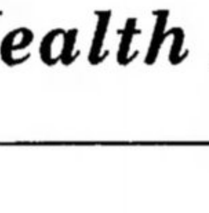
from The Mini Page © 2008 Universal Press Syndicate

™ Basset Brown The News Hound's

2008 Calendar

TRY 'N FIND

Words that remind us of the coming year are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: OLYMPICS, ELECTION, BEIJING, MAY, JANUARY, DAY, HOLIDAY, FUN, NUMBERS, NOVEMBER, MONTH, JULY, EVENT, AUGUST, NEW, YEAR, CALENDAR, MARCH, JUNE, APRIL.



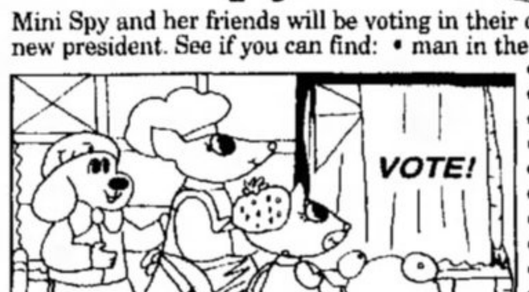
K N L I R P A O L Y M P I C S
G F U N Q B W N S R E B M U N
C M J O Z L M O B A Q V H B G
H O L I D A Y V H U X Y E M P
R N B T Y R K E C N J N G N L
B T W C A F D M R A U G U S T
J H Z E K T W B A J L P Q K L
S V Y L N E D E M K Y Q Y A D
C A L E N D A R B E I J I N G

from The Mini Page © 2008 Universal Press Syndicate

Mini Spy ...

Mini Spy and her friends will be voting in their classroom for the new president. See if you can find:

- man in the moon
- strawberry
- two sailboats
- bell
- carrot
- umbrella
- word MINI
- number 2
- pencil
- kite
- teapot
- ruler
- olive
- key
- letter L



This Mini-Page Is Sponsored by MVHR Mon-Vale Health Resources, Inc.

Bedford Award to be presented to Gandhi

Dr. Anant J. Gandhi, a longtime member of the medical staff at Monongahela Valley Hospital, will be honored with the Nathaniel Bedford Primary Care Physician Award by the Allegheny County Medical Society (ACMS) during the annual installation of officers ceremony at the Westin Convention Center Jan. 12.

> "He truly lives and breathes medicine."
>
> Kara Anthony

The Nathaniel Bedford Primary Care Physician Award, given by the ACMS since 1975, honors a primary care physician who has demonstrated long-term dedication to the physical and psychological needs of patients.

"This is a distinct and most deserved honor for Dr. Gandhi," Louis J. Panza Jr., president and chief executive officer of Monongahela Valley Hospital, said. "It is a reflection on Dr. Gandhi's skills as a physician and his commitment to his patients, the medical profession and the communities he serves. He has been an asset to our health system throughout his tenure here."

Dr. Gandhi has been a member of the MVH Medical Staff for more than 24 years.

Specializing in critical care medicine and internal medicine, he is affiliated with Kamlesh B. Gosai, M.D. at Drs. Gosai and Gandhi with offices in Charleroi, Bentleyville, California and Rices Landing..

Dr. Anant J. Gandhi

A 1975 graduate of Kasturba Medical College Mysore University in Karnataka, India, Dr. Gandhi served a residency at Bronx Lebanon Hospital, Bronx, N.Y.

He joined Dr. Gosai's practice in 1990.

Admitted to ACMS in 1982, Dr. Gandhi is board certified in internal, critical care and geriatric medicine. In addition to Monongahela Valley Hospital, he also has privileges at Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Jefferson Hills.

"He is the physician who answers the page at 2 a.m. and speaks to family members to let them know what is happening to their loved one," said Kara Anthony, who has worked for Drs. Gosai and Gandhi for 12 years and one of several people who nominated Dr. Gandhi for the award. "He is also the physician who stays all night at the hospital when a patient is critically ill. He truly lives and breathes medicine."

The Allegheny County Medical Society has more than 3,200 physician members from all specialties and is dedicated to providing expert advice and guidance to its membership and the community. The organization has been serving Allegheny County since 1865.

2007: a year to remember for MVHR

Several events highlighted 2007 for Mon-Vale Health Resources:

January

Dr. Brenda L. Walther became the new director of Emergency Medical Services at MVH.

Dr. Krisnan A. Gopal was elected president of the Allegheny Medical Society.

April

MVH begins Image Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT). This is a cutting edge ultrasound-based technology allowing radiation oncologists to use greater precision in tumor localization before the delivery of radiation therapy. The specific piece of equipment used is called BAT (B-mode Acquisition and Targeting) which provides increased image sensitivity with greater tissue contrast resolution for easy to read quality images.

June

The Residence at Hilltop assisted living community in Carroll Township marked its 10th anniversary June 1, 2007.

Richard A. Barcelona, president and CEO of Bailey Engineering, Inc. at Southpointe Industrial Park, was elected to succeed Alan Guttman as chairman of the MVH and MVHR boards of directors.

July

MVH medical staff reaches all time high with the appointments of physicians in the specialties of radiation therapy, radiology, otolaryngology and facial plastics, endocrinology, podiatry, hematology/oncology, anesthesia and pain management and emergency medicine. This growth increases the depth of the hospital's services and access to quality health care and provides a medical staff to the residents of the Mid-Monongahela Valley that now numbers more than 200.

The Intensive Care and Coronary Care units at MVH implemented the Smart Pump computerized medication system. Smart Pump is designed to help physician, nurses, pharmacists and other staff in their efforts to ensure the right patient receives the right drug in the right dose at the right time and date.

September

MVH's Rehabilitation Team opened The Children's Center for Rehabilitation to provide specialized services to meet the rehabilitation needs of children and adolescents in the mid-Monongahela Valley.

The Center is located in Suite 202 at 1029 Country Club Road in Carroll Township and will serve children, adolescents and young adults, from birth to age 21, who have been diagnosed with any of a variety of deficits, delays and disorders.

October

Monongahela Valley Hospital added the 64-slice LightSpeed VCT (Volume Computed Tomography) system to its radiology area.

The 64-slice capability enables new imaging procedures in cardiology as well as faster imaging of the more traditional CT procedures and represents the latest innovation in computed tomography technology. In cardiology applications, the 64-slice CT scanner can capture images of a beating heart in five heartbeats or other organs in the body in a second and can perform whole body trauma scans in 10 seconds.

It's Not Too Early to Consider an Experience That Could Change Your Life

Classes Begin Thursday, January 17, 2008
5 to 9 p.m.

Mon-Vale HealthPLEX
WillowPointe Plaza
Rostraver Township

If you have heart disease or at risk for developing it, register now for the Dr. Dean Ornish Program for Reversing Heart Disease.

Should You Participate?
The Program Is Designed For People Who:
- ♥are contemplating bypass surgery or angioplasty
- ♥have experienced heart procedures and want to minimize the chance for repetition
- ♥have a diagnosis of coronary artery disease or diabetes

The Ornish Team Consists of:
- ♥Medical Directors
- ♥Registered Dietitians
- ♥Exercise Physiologists
- ♥Stress Management Specialists
- ♥Cardiac Nurse Case Managers
- ♥Behavioral Health Clinicians

Please call **1-877-400-9892** for more information about the classes beginning in January. Space is limited.

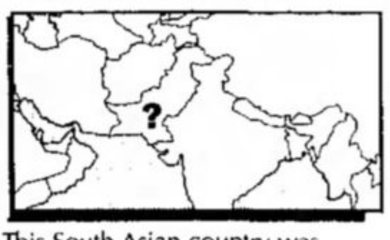
MVH Monongahela Valley Hospital HEALTH CARE

Dr Dean Ornish PROGRAM for reversing heart disease

• Free Parking Space
• 34 Washers/18 Dryers
• Washers Ideal For Bulky Items
• 35 & 55lb. Washers
OPEN 7 DAYS 6AM-10PM
AMERICAN LAUNDROMAT
426 EAST MAIN ST. MONONGAHELA
JUST PAST ECKERD GIBSON CAR STAR AUTO

NEWSPLACE

(10 points for correct answer)



This South Asian country was shattered by the assassination of popular opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, who returned to her native country in October after eight years of self-imposed exile. An assailant attacked her car during a campaign rally and then blew himself up, killing 20 others. Thousands thronged the Bhutto family mausoleum, where the slain leader was buried. The Oxford-educated Bhutto served as prime minister twice. Her killing took place only days before the country's planned general election. Officials said the elections may be postponed. The country's interior minister blamed al-Qaeda for the attack. Name this country.

WORLDSCOPE

(10 points for each correct answer)

1-Sales of ..?.. in the U.S. plunged to their lowest levels in 12 years.

2-A rescue mission brokered by Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez for three hostages held by rebels in ..?.. was again delayed.

3-A Siberian tiger, which may have been taunted by its victims, escaped from its enclosure at a zoo in ..?.., killing one and mauling two others.

4-Dozens of people have been killed in the African nation of ..?.. after a disputed presidential election.

5-As part of a peace deal with former Maoist rebels, the parliament of the South Asian country of ..?.. voted to abolish its monarchy.

Free Checking Affordable Loans
• Monessen • Monongahela
• Park Centre • Perryopolis
• Rostraver • Uniontown
• Donora • Peters Twp
Visit Our Newest Location! • Washington
FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK
Where Performance Counts
www.firstfederal-savings.com
Equal Housing Lender Member FDIC

To Advertise In This Weekly Feature
Call Michelle at:
(724) 684-2614
THE Valley INDEPENDENT

PEOPLE/SPORTS/ ENTERTAINMENT

(5 points for each correct answer)

1. Who is coach of the Charleroi High School girl's varsity basketball team?

2. Who will coach the newly formed Monessen High School track team?

3. Who is commander of the Mon Valley Dive Team?

4. Who was Westmoreland County's first female commissioner?

5. Who is Westmoreland County's recorder of deeds?

NEWSNAME

(15 points for correct answer)

Born in 1961, I have represented Florida in the House of Representatives since 1997 as a Democrat. Recently I announced that I am using cyberspace to take on the Bush administration. I launched a site to gather signatures to support the impeachment of Vice President Dick Cheney. The site garnered more than 50,000 signatures in two days. I believe Cheney manipulated intelligence to make a case for invading Iraq, and I've called for hearings into whether Cheney violated the Constitution. Some admire me for going against the leadership of my own party. Who am I?

SERVING 21 MON VALLEY COMMUNITIES WITH DIRECT AND CONNECTING COMMUTER ROUTES TO PITTSBURGH 365 DAYS A YEAR.

Do You Experience...
Chronic Pain
Back Pain
Fibromyalgia
Headaches
Carpal Tunnel
Jaw Pain

Dr. James V. Scirotto
Scirotto Chiropractic
724-379-4000
Rt. 51 • Belle Vernon
Accepting the Blues, UPMC & Most Major Insurance's

We Deliver... Newspapers and More

ANDEN Chiropractic Clinic
"Healing The Valley One Spine At A Time"
Decompression for treatment of Disc • Carpal Tunnel
Utilizing Traditional And State Of The Art Techniques To Suit Your Specific Need.
193 Finley Road
Rostraver
724-930-8060
Most Insurances Accepted

FRESH CUT GYROS
JUST A TAVERN
$5 Every Tuesday 11AM-6PM
N. Belle Vernon
Call ahead
724-929-9906

©Knowledge Unlimited, Inc. 12-31-07

YOUR SCORE

91 to 100 points *TOP SCORE!*	71 to 80 points *Good*
81 to 90 points *Excellent*	61 to 70 points *Fair*

ANSWERS

NEWSPLACE: Pakistan

WORLDSCOPE: 1-New homes; 2-Colombia; 3-San Francisco; 4-Kenya; 5-Nepal. NEWSNAME: Robert Wexler

PEOPLE/SPORTS: 1-Nick Mahalko; 2-Ramont Small; 3-Sam Woncheck; 4-Dorothy Shope; 5-Tom Murphy

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Today's clue: E equals V

"IZ BTGBOY BK GBU GLKF OHCU ELMZY, BK VZBMZ GLKF OHCU SZLJFIHUY, BSX TZK ZBMF SZG OZBU NLSX OHC B IZKKZU WBS."

-IZS NUBSATLS

PREVIOUS SOLUTION --"Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to." - Bill Vaughan

CALENDAR WATCH

Wednesday

■Allison Lescanic Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1190 meeting, Mon Valley Community Health Center, Monessen, 7 p.m.

■Mon Valley Association of Retired Steelworkers meeting, 11:30 a.m.

■Bentleyville Public Library board of trustees meeting, library reading room, 7 p.m.

VALLEY GRAPEVINE

New garbage hauler named

Fayette Waste will be the new refuse collector for residents of Speers and Mapleview. Pickups will be on Wednesdays. There will be an increase in the rate of $19.

Time changed

Eucharistic Adoration will take place 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. the first Friday in January and February at Our Lady of the Valley Parish, St. Dominic worship site, Donora.

From March, on the service will take place 9 a.m. to midnight hours.

Spaghetti dinner set

The Belle Vernon Volunteer Fire Department will conduct a spaghetti dinner 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. For takeouts, call (724) 929-5511.

Bingo planned

Faith Formation classes of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fifth Avenue., Sutersville, will conduct a bingo in the social hall 1 p.m. Sunday.

THE Valley INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED

724.684.5200 FAX: 724.684.2602 VALLEYINDEPENDENT.COM

MERCHANDISE
4 DAYS $14.30 4 LINES
Private Party Only • Pre-Paid

"Run Til' Sells" prepaid $19.45 (4 Lines)
(Private Party Merchandise Only, No Businesses, Autos, Boats, RV's, Real Estate, Mobile Homes or Apartments.)
Asking Price of Item is Reduced Every 2 Weeks by 5%

AUTOMOTIVE
26 DAYS $34.78 4 LINES
Private Party Only • Pre-Paid

SERVICE DIRECTORY
30 DAYS $59.77
Pre-Paid

GENERAL INFORMATION: The Tribune-Review Publishing Company reserves the right to edit or reject any advertising copy and determine the correct classification of any advertisement. **MISPRINTS:** Notice of error should be reported to the Classified Department immediately. The Tribune-Review Publishing Company will not be responsible for more than the cost of that part of an ad rendered valueless by the error. **CONFIDENTIALITY:** Confidential box numbers – we do not disclose the name of any advertiser using our classified pages. Persons answering File Number ads who WISH to protect their identity can do so as follows: Place your reply in an envelope addressed to the File Box at the Valley Independent Classified Department, Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062. Include the file number and a list of firms or persons you DO NOT want your reply to reach. If the advertiser is anyone you've listed, we'll destroy your reply. **NOTICE:** All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, familial status or handicaps, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. The paper accepts only recruitment advertising meeting EOE standards. The newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising which is in violation of the law.

DAILY DEADLINES: HAPPY ADS: 12 Noon • LEGAL ADS: 12 Noon
DAILY IN-COLUMN: 1:30 PM Monday-Friday previous day
MONDAY DEADLINE: 4:30 PM on Friday
SUNDAY: All Ads - 11 AM Wednesday

THIS WEEK'S Spotlight Vehicle | THIS WEEK'S Spotlight Job | THIS WEEK'S Spotlight Service | THIS WEEK'S Spotlight House

Bring your ad into the Spotlight!

CALL TODAY TO FIND OUT HOW! 724-684-5200
THE Valley INDEPENDENT
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

we just brought a superstar on board.

Trib Total Media has just partnered with Yahoo! HotJobs to bring you more local job listings!

When it comes time to start your job search, turn to us for more opportunities.
More current listings. More of what you need to find the right one.

VISIT PAJOBMATCH.COM TODAY.

PA JOBMATCH.com In partnership with YAHOO! hotjobs
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

©2007 Yahoo! Inc. All rights reserved.

Service Directory

Has the pros. Valley

1000/GENERAL

JANITORIAL- 4 days, 7am-10am, $9/hr. Call 1-800-686-6424 ext. 35 leave name & phone number.

INSTRUCTOR
Laurel Business Institute is seeking a part-time Instructor to teach allied health classes Monday through Friday mornings. RN and teaching experience preferred. Send resume & salary requirements to csantore@laurel.edu or mail to LBI HR, P.O. Box 877, Uniontown, PA 15401.

NOW HIRING PART-TIME COOK
Apply in Person
HOLIDAY INN
BELLE VERNON
724-929-4600

WAITER/WAITRESS- Jem Lounge, Fallowfield Twp. Monday thru Friday, 11am-4pm. Call 724-483-5367.

1000/GENERAL

CIRCULATION ASSISTANTS
Opportunities to Join a Winning Team!

The Tribune-Review Publishing Company has open positions for Part-time Circulation Assistants.
Currently an exciting opportunity exists for the right individual. A chance to earn, learn and advance.

- Steady Part-time, approx. 30 hrs./wk.
- Early morning hours
- Delivery & customer service skills necessary
- Work Independently
- Competitive wage & auto allowance

If interested, call Ken Planinsek at
724-850-2826
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

DAYCARE PROVIDERS
Mature persons needed. Reply to Box 866 c/o The Valley Independent Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062. EOE.

DOWN ROUTE DRIVER
Part-time position, approximately 25 hrs./week. Assist district managers with the delivery of newspapers to subscribers on routes that temporarily have no carrier. Must possess valid PA driver's license and reliable vehicle. Hourly rate plus mileage. Applications available at The Valley Independent, Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062 or email your resume to lhutchison@tribweb.com

EXPERIENCED AUTO BODY TECHNICIAN or PAINTER
Full-time
Call 724-239-4500

MH/MR Support Staff
Laurel Highlands Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization that supports persons with MH/MR developmental disabilities, is currently seeking part-time and full-time support staff to work in our community homes in the West Newton, Turkeytown Rd., New Stanton, and Elizabeth areas. No experience is necessary. Paid training. Must be at least 18 years of age and have valid PA driver's license. Starting rate is $8.63/hour with benefits after 90 days, increase to $8.86/hr. after 6 months. EOE. Call ONLY Mon.-Fri., 9-3pm. 412-825-9141.

MOTOR ROUTE DRIVER
Fallowfield Twp.

- Mon.-Sat.
- 69 Customers
- No Collections
- 1½ hours daily

724-684-2647

NOTICE TO READERS:
While work-at-home and other informational advertising is often legitimate, we advise readers to fully investigate the background of any company before paying a fee. If an offer sounds "too good to be true", it probably is. Proceed with caution if you are asked to send money or in calling 900 numbers. All phone numbers prefixed by "900" are charged to the caller on a per minute or per call basis. The Valley Independent makes every effort to qualify these charges for the reader. Remember, if you have any doubts, investigate!

1025/DRIVERS

LIFT VAN DRIVERS & Taxi Drivers. Must have clean drivers license. Apply at Tri County Access, 1001 Meldon Ave., Donora.

1040/MEDICAL

AGENCY attendant needed for Belle Vernon area for personal care services. PT, morning hrs., weekdays & weekends. Interested parties should contact 724-439-1434 Mon.-Fri., 8:30am-4:30pm.

CNA
Full/Part-time
Mon Valley Care Center accepting CNA applications for daylight, afternoon, and midnight shifts: Competitive salary, insurance benefits, vacation/ holiday package, and 401K.

Join the Valley's most dynamic nursing team

Visit or
Send Resumes to:
Mon Valley Care Center
200 Stoops Drive
Monongahela, PA 15063
or fax to:
724-310-1195
E.O.E.

DENTAL ASSISTANT- PT needed for general dentist. Experience preferred. Please call 724-348-7613.

SECRETARY/Medical Assistant, full-time, for busy medical office in Belle Vernon. Front & back office exp. 401K. Send resume to P.O. Box 660, Belle Vernon, PA 15012-0660.

TRI COUNTY Home Health Care now accepting applications in the Brownsville area. CNAs or Home Health Aides with experience. Full or part-time avail. Call for interview 724-785-4374 or 1-800-690-1152

1050/SALES

OUTSIDE SALES REPS
Full or Part Time
Flexible Hours
Excellent Income Potential

We are looking for aggressive, results-oriented salespeople to join our team to market Home Delivery of
Tribune-Review Publishing Company
Crew leader, storefront and door-to-door positions are available.
Please call 412-610-6378
9am-5:30pm Monday
8am-3pm Tues. & Wed.
8am-12 Thursday
Closed Friday

1110/BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

MONESSEN
--Routes Open--
1st, 2nd, Reed Ave.
21 Papers
No Collecting
Call 724-684-2648
* * * * * * * *
Forest, Ontario
17 Papers
No Collecting
Call 724-684-2647

1110/BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

DONORA ROUTE OPEN
100's McKean and Thompson
17 Papers
Call Melissa at 724-684-2647

MONESSEN CARRIER WANTED
- - - - -
1st St. 400's
2nd St. 400's
10's-200's Reed Ave.
- - - - -
21 Customers
No Collections
Call 724-684-2648 or 724-684-2600

MONESSEN ROUTES OPEN
- - - - -
Frye, McGeary, Page St., Scott Ave.
17 Papers
* * * * * * *
Anna Ave., Moffat, Pride, Ross St.
18 Papers
* * * * * * *
Washington Dr., Anderson, Hartung, Service Lane
28 Papers
No Collecting
- - - - -
Call Melissa at 724-684-2647

ROUTES AVAILABLE
Tribune Review
✓ California
✓ Bentleyville
✓ Ellsworth Area
Call Jason at
724-272-4437 or
Bill at 412-523-2306

1120/SITUATIONS

WILL BABYSIT in my home Call 724-483-4762

2010/ESTATE NOTICES

Dufalla, Judith Anne
ESTATE NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that in the ESTATE OF JUDITH ANNE DUFALLA a/k/a JUDITH A. DUFALLA a/k/a J. A. DUFALLA a/k/a JUDITH DUFALLA, Late of Rostraver Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, the Register of Wills of Westmoreland County has granted Letters Testamentary to the undersigned. All persons having claims or demands against said estate are requested to present the same without delay and to all person indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the Executrix or the attorney named below

JULIA DUFALLA,
EXECUTRIX
3909 EVERLAWN ST
WEST MIFFLIN, PA
15122

RICHARD R. VICTORIA
ATTORNEY AT LAW
506 CIRCLE DRIVE
BELLE VERNON, PA
15012
(724)929-9823
12/18,26;1/1

Yager, Mike
ESTATE NOTICE

Letters testamentary on the Estate of MIKE YAGER late of Richeyville, Washington County, deceased, having been granted by the Register of Washington County, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said Estate to make immediate payment, and to those having claims against the same to present them without delay to

ED SAWICKY,
EXECUTOR
1768 MAIN STREET
MARIANNA, PA 15345

HERMAN J. BIGI,
ESQUIRE
BIGI & WALSH
337 FALLOWFIELD
AVENUE
CHARLEROI, PA 15022
12/24,31;1/7

LOOKING FOR LOVE? CHECK OUT MEETING PLACE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

2030/MEETING NOTICES

NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, PURSUANT TO ACT NO. 175 OF 1974, THAT THE WESTMORELAND COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WILL HOLD A REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF REORGANIZATION AND TO CONDUCT GENERAL BUSINESS ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 11TH, 2008 AT 5:30 P.M. AT THE MAIN OFFICE OF THE AUTHORITY, 154 SOUTH GREENGATE ROAD, GREENSBURG, PA.

MICHAEL L. WASHOWICH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
1/1

NOTICE

The Reorganization Meeting of the Dunlevy Borough Council will be held on Monday, January 7th, 2008 at the Municipal Building at 6:30 p.m.

Stephanie Pieri
Secretary
1/1

4100/PERSONALS

1040/MEDICAL

REGISTERED NURSE SUPERVISOR
Long-term care facility accepting applications for FT/PT all shifts.
Competitive starting wage, insurance benefits, 401K & vacation/holiday package.
Convenient location (off Routes 43 & 88).
For more information call 724-310-1111.
Send resume to:
MON VALLEY CARE CENTER
200 STOOPS DRIVE
MONONGAHELA, PA 15063
OR VISIT US AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS
E.O.E

4000/ADOPTION

ADOPT
Family focused devoted married couple longs to adopt your newborn. We promise to provide a loving, warm, financially secure home. Expenses paid. Please Call Christina & Bill at:
1-888-290-9050

LOOKING FOR A FRIEND? CHECK THE PET DIRECTORY. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

LOOKING FOR A DREAM JOB? FIND IT HERE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

4010/CEMETERY LOTS

4 PLOTS at Mon Valley Memorial Park, Garden of Devotion $2,330. Call 724-929-5911

4070/LOST & FOUND

FIND SOMETHING? LOSE SOMETHING?
Place your lost & found ad FREE. Runs 4 days at no charge. Call 724-684-5200.

4100/PERSONALS

ASTRO ❖ GRAPH
Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 2, 2008

CAPRICORN December 22 through January 19

Both success and advancement can be realized in the year ahead, but you must be prepared to pay the price. Conditions that are beyond your control could create much more hard work than you anticipate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Turn the other cheek rather than squabble with someone who doesn't share your philosophy. If you aren't amiable, you'll create a no-win situation that will leave everyone feeling under siege.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Serious problems cannot be ignored in the hopes that they will simply go away. That which you neglect will compound itself and cause added complications.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Don't appoint yourself chairman of the entertainment committee. People will have their own ideas, so let them sort out all the suggestions.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Even though you usually do quite well in competitive situations, that won't be so at this point in time. Let the others joust for a while. Pursue sure things.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Be on guard when you are around those who hold an opposing position. Don't debate subjects when neither party is willing to surrender.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- There is something festering in your financial or commercial affairs that will erupt if not handled properly. Do not take anything for granted. Watch every move you make.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Co-workers will have their own headaches to contend with, so don't place any extra burdens on them. It will be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- You will be called upon to perform a service for another that you'll resent doing. The way you handle the situation will cause negativity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Be extremely careful about the way you handle yourself, because if you take something as mundane as a game too seriously, you will spoil the day for everyone else.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Usually you're a very generous person. But today you will not be too eager to share with others. You will not give them credit for what they helped you bring about. That's not like you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Stand up for what you believe, but don't deliberately introduce a controversial subject. You will be looking for a fight with this kind of attitude, and you might just find one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Be particularly careful about your business or financial dealings, especially if you are with someone who has stung you previously. People do not change who or what they are.

Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail $3 to Astro-Graph, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167.

REAL ESTATE

3060/FOR SALE/WASH.

CALL FOR DETAILS
MUST SEE this well maintained 2 bedroom Cape Cod Bright & cheery Plenty of storage Asking $82,700
GREAT STARTER or rental Cute & cozy 3 bedroom 2 story on busline $52,921
3 BEDROOM brick ranch near Y Enclosed sunporch Move-in condition $159,921

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!
Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-348-7470

3065/FOR SALE/WMLD.

BELLE VERNON 4 bedroom, 2 bath, garage, a/c, NEW everything! $93,500. 724-309-7678

MONESSEN 2 bed, living room, dining room, kitchen, new furnace, roof, hot water tank $14,000 724-684-8191

LOOKING TO MOVE? REAL ESTATE ENTRY SUNDAY. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

3066/FOR SALE/OTHER

CALL FOR DETAILS
BELLE VERNON 3 bedroom, 2 story frame Great neighborhood to raise a family Perfect starter/rental Spacious rooms, nice yard and covered front porch Asking $60,000

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!
Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-929-2180

NEW LISTINGS
DONORA- great starter home or investment property 2 bedrooms 2 car attached garage Call for more details $45,000
MONESSEN- very nice up & down duplex, live in one-let the other make your mortgage payments Call to see this one $50,000

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!
Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-483-3004

3555/APTS-RENT/WASHINGTON

'CHARLEROI'
THE NEW SMITH HOUSE
Efficiency Apartment
All Utilities Included
' DONORA '
1 Bedroom Bungalow
Clean
Nice Neighborhood
AND
2 Bedroom Apartment
724-746-3997

CHARLEROI 1 bedroom, downtown, 2nd floor, no pets All appliances & utilities inc $550+ security 724-244-2955

CHARLEROI
1 & 2 bedroom apts for rent w/intercom, wall to wall carpet, washer/dryer $325-$400 Security deposit No pets
724-292-1189
724-396-1140

DONORA- 3 bedroom, ground floor, lots of storage, on bus line $450+ electric Call 412-302-4856

SPEERS 2 bedroom town house $500+ security & utilities Appliances, central air No pets 412-812-2948, 412-812-2947

LOOKING FOR A FRIEND? CHECK THE PET DIRECTORY. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

3561/APT-RENT/OTHER

MONONGAHELA
Modern 1 bedroom apartment Air conditioning, refrigerator, stove, elevator, intercom, laundry, storage, security $350 + electric Call 412-257-0902

3620/HSE-RENT/WASHINGTON

ELCO 2 bedroom, ½ duplex, newly renovated, close to Rt 70 & Expressway $450+ No pets 724-344-0175

3625/HSE-RENT/WMLD.

MONESSEN- 2 bedroom house $400 month + utilities No pets Call 724-736-2771

MONESSEN- 2 bedroom, yard, newly remodeled, appliances included, garage 420 Forest Section 8 accepted 724-489-4131

MONESSEN- 3 bedroom, w/w carpet $420 per month plus Call 724-872-2775

MONESSEN 2/3 bedroom house, living, dining, kitchen, small yard central heat/air $600+ utilities Section 8 ok 724-929-3230

IF WE DON'T HAVE IT, YOU DON'T NEED IT. CLASSIFIEDS

3625/HSE-RENT/WMLD.

N BELLE VERNON- 2 bedroom, possible 3, full basement Garbage incl $375+ utilities $200 security $425 w/ all appliances Call 724-797-3812

3645/MOBILE RENTALS

DUNLEVY 3 bedroom, living room, kitchen, bath, stove, refrig., dishwasher, laundry hook-up $625+ security Inc lot rent, water, garbage, sewage 724-554-0637

3700/COMMERCIAL RE

MODERN OFFICE OR RETAIL SPACE
BELLE VERNON
719 Broad Ave., air conditioning 1,500 sq ft, off street parking
MONONGAHELA
215 Chess St 2,000 sq ft Call 412-257-0902

TOTAL MEDIA
NEWSPAPERS
RADIO
TELEVISION
MAGAZINES
INTERNET
PENNYSAVERS
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

5000/APPAREL & JEWELRY

HARLEY DAVIDSON leather & wool jacket XL, excellent condition $150 724-872-0151

5010/APPLIANCES

MICROWAVE Roper under the cabinet, black, like new, $63.00 724-684-4596

5020/ARTICLES

3' CHRISTMAS TREE- new unopened $2.00 Call 724-483-2187

3 OLD MASTER OF UNIVERSE Figures, $15 each Call 724-258-5969.

COMPUTER DESK with hutch You dismantle & haul $35 Call 724-243-3635

LAMP- 1950's bark cloth shade, $35 Call 724-483-2187

SPINNER GO ROUND- Little Tikes, 2 person Needs cleaned $15 Call 724-938-6816

V SMILE- 2 controllers, AC adaptor, $20 Call 724-684-3477

5060/COMPUTERS

DELL Dimension, 17" monitor, keyboard, mouse, speakers $325. 724-344-7069

5070/ELECTRONICS

STEREO- 1960's wood cabinet, Magnavox, $20. Call 724-483-2187

5150/HOME HEALTH CARE

LIFT CHAIR- 3 years old, hunter green, excellent Paid $600, sell $335 724-929-4963

5195/SPORTING GOODS

GOLF CLUBS Power Built new, never used w/bag $313.00 724-483-6724 412-551-4848

SKI BOOTS- size 11 Salomon men's $10 Call 724-379-5104

5220/WANTED TO BUY

$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
$CASH FOR$
Broken or Unwanted Gold or Platinum
Chains, Bracelets Rings, Etc.
Gold & Silver Coins
Diamonds & Estate Jewelry
Highest Prices Paid
THE JEWELTIQUE
724-225-1455
$ $ $ $

Collector
BUYING GOLD & SILVER COINS JEWELRY & DENTAL GOLD PLATINUM & LIONEL TRAINS
Highest Prices Paid
-- WILL TRAVEL --
724-258-4189
$ $ $ $

5550/CATS

GYPSEY- 1 year torte cat, spayed, shots, very loveable $25. Call 724-258-8380

YOUNG CATS- spayed & neutered, 7 months, shots, litter trained. $25 ea. 724-258-8380

BUY IT! SELL IT! FIND IT! ONLY IN THE CLASSIFIEDS TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

5600/LOST & FOUND

LOST toy poodle female cream & brown "Tootsie" 2nd & Woodland, Charleroi 724-565-5192 Reward

6030/TRUCKS

1990 FORD F250HD 4x4 V8, 5 speed manual Good shape $2,500 Call 724-326-4782.

6050/PARTS & ACCESSORIES

USED AUTO PARTS
At Affordable Prices
C&M AUTO RECYCLING
MONONGAHELA
724-258-3553

6080/AUTOS FOR SALE

R&M AUTO SALES
724-929-6900
1997 CHEVY Venture Van, V6, 4 door, many options $2,995.

1997 CHEVY Cavalier, 4 cyl., auto. $1,495.

1998 KIA Sportage, 4 cyl auto, 4x4 $3,995

1997 CHEVY Blazer, V6, auto 4x4 $2,500

1998 FORD Explorer XLT, V6, 4 dr $4,700

2000 FORD Taurus SES, V6, 4 dr $4,995.

1997 FORD Explorer, V6, AWD $4,500.

1999 PONTIAC Grand AM SE, 2 door, 4 cyl., auto, CD player. $4,500

1994 FORD Ranger, 4 cyl., 5 speed $1,995.

10 to 25% Off Select Vehicles - Make Offer!
★ ★ ★ ★

6080/AUTOS FOR SALE

2007 DODGE Charger, rool, grill, spoiler 1k, 3/36 warranty, $17,500 724-929-7158

CASH FOR SCRAP CARS
C&M AUTO
MONONGAHELA
FREE PICK-UP
Paying $75 to $100
724-258-3553
1-800-954-3553

NEED A CAR...
- **No Credit?**
- **Bankruptcy?**
- **Repossessions?**

-- NO PROBLEM --
Drive One Home Today
Call Eric 724-413-4531

6100/WANTED TO BUY

JUNK CARS, TRUCKS & VANS
Wanted to Buy
-- $75 & Up --
Free Towing
SALVAGE 1
724-263-3755

LOSKO'S AUTO SALVAGE
Buying Junk & Wrecked Cars & Trucks
Selling Parts
Free Towing
724-785-7780

7731/VACATION PACKAGES

DISNEY AREA STAY- 7 days, 6 nights, 2 adult Disney tickets, paid $750 sell $249. Good for 1 yr. 412-958-8717

HAPPY ADS

THANK YOU TO MY VALLEY INDEPENDENT CUSTOMERS FOR YOUR GENEROUS CHRISTMAS GIFTS
Happy New Year!
PAM BAXTER

4100/PERSONALS

$195 DIVORCE COMPLETE
No-Fault Uncontested
Reisman & Davis, Pgh
No Court Appearance or Travel To Office
Free Information
1-800-486-4070 24Hrs

ALONE & PREGNANT?
A Confidential Caring Friend
Free Pregnancy Test
LIFELINE OF S.W. PA
Call Hotline 24 Hrs.
724-489-9020

AUTO DIRECTORY

A&L Motors
BMW
3780 William Penn Hwy. Rt 22
Monroeville, PA
877-252-6952

B Bogdewic
Chevrolet
The Little Guys in Bentlyville
724-239-2121

Century III
Dodge
911 Clairton Blvd. Route 51
412-469-2800

C. Harper
Autoplex
Rts. 51 & 71
Belle Vernon, PA
724-929-8000

C. Harper
Ford
Rt. 51 Belle Vernon
727-929-2900

Davies
Ford of Charleroi
Route 88-McKean Ave.
Charleroi, PA
724-483-5541

Davies
Ford of Connellsville
Route 119 N.
Connellsville, PA
724-628-2720

Elite Motors
Country Club Road
Monongahela, PA
724-258-5124

Franks Service Garage
Chrysler
57 E. Donner Ave.
Monessen, PA
724-684-9100

Gerry Raymond
Chrysler • Jeep • Dodge • Subaru
4803 Rt. 51
Belle Vernon
724-379-7300

Monongahela
Ford
210 Fourth St
Monongahela, PA
724-258-8800

Rainbow
Honda
Route 40 Richeyville, PA
724-632-6853

Rotolo
Dodge • Chrysler • Jeep
Rt. 88 Charleroi, PA 15022
724-489-9571
www.rotolomotors.com

Sedney
Buick-Pontiac-GMC Trucks
Route 88, N. Charleroi, PA
724-489-9547

Solomon
Ford
Routes 40 & 43
Brownsville, PA
724-785-5500
www.solomonauto.com

Solomon
Chrysler-Jeep-Dodge
Routes 40 & 43
Brownsville, PA
724-785-8000
www.solomonauto.com

Solomon
Chrysler-Jeep-Dodge
Sea-Doo • Ski-Doo • Can-Am
Routes 21 & 88
Carmichaels, PA
724-966-2600
www.solomonauto.com

Tregembo
Ford
I70 Exit 32B
Bentlyville, PA
724-239-2200

Uniontown Toyota
650 West Main St. •
Uniontown, PA 15401
724-437-8422

Washington
Ford
507 Washington Road Route 19
Washington, PA
724-223-5100

Woltz & Wind
Ford
2100 Washington Pike
Carnegie, PA 15106
412-279-4551

3 Rivers Volkswagen
3694 Washington Road
McMurray, PA
724-941-6100

FIND IT FIRST IN THE VALLEY INDEPENDENT

Service Directory

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND BUSINESSES IN THE MID-MON VALLEY

AIR DUCT CLEANING
TRI COUNTY Air Duct Cleaning. Duct work cleaned & sanilized. Free video est. 724-483-3411.

AIR PURIFIERS
BREATHE Clean Pure Air Home or Office. Call for details 724-736-4759.

APPLIANCES
WES'S Used Appliances
90 Day Warranty
$75 & Up
724-529-2863

APPLIANCE PARTS
CHARLEROI SWEEPER vacuums - repairs - parts. 618 Fallowfield Ave. 724-483-3397.

Call The Classified Department Today To Place An Ad

AUCTION SERVICE
STRICKLER'S Auction Service. Estates or consignments. 724-326-4050. Buy or sell.

AUTOMOTIVE REPAIRS
GRECO'S Automotive Services PA Enhanced emisson testing, remanufacture used motors & trans. installed, head gaskets, clutches, computer diagnostic major auto repair. Insured. 724-938-2911, 800-640-2902. ASE Certified

AUTO SERVICE REPAIRS CONT
WEIDMAN TRANSMISSIONS Import Specialist, Domestic, heavy equipment & Allison Trucks Call Jim 412-384-4822.

BUILDING MATERIALS
RAILROAD TIES All Grades & Sizes Call 724-489-1180

BUILDING REMODELING
S. MANGES CONST - specializing in additions, decks, roofs, garages, siding, all home remodeling. Free est. Insured. 724-258-7722.

BUZZY BYRON siding, windows, soffit, fascia, downspouts & gutters, ptg., additions, plumbing, electrical, sewer cleaning & camera service. 724-684-8699 724-309-5130.

CCS INC. All home improvements. Free est. Calls will be returned. 724-348-6276.

ALL REPAIRS PLUS bathroom/basement remodeling, dry wall, plumbing, painting, etc. 724-328-5313.

CARPETING
CALL Carpeting Unlimited for a personal evening viewing of new flooring in your home. Carpet, hardwood, ceramic, cork, formica & vinyl. Tues. - Wed. -Thurs., 8am - 4pm or by appt. 724-258-4845.

CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
MILLER'S Magic Carpet Cleaning. Whole house special $139*. Clean 4 areas for only $109. Powerful truck mounted units. 724-483-2370.

CARPET CLEANING
CLEANS GREAT & dries quickly. NO SOAKING! Call Tri County Chem Dry 724-483-9553.

CLEANING SERVICES
SPOTLESS CLEANING general housecleaning at it's best. Dependable. References. 724-872-1089.

Classified Ads Work. Call The Vally Independent Newspaper.

CONCRETE & BLOCK
Muccino Const. Specializing in driveways, walks, steps, porches, floors. All types retaining walls, block work. Free est. Insured. 724-929-6028.

ELECTRICAL
JACK'S ELECTRICAL Contracting. Specializing in older homes. More than 25 years. Free est. 724-489-9109.

ELECTRICAL SERVICE SUPPLIES
O&O ELECTRIC- new & old work. Free est., fully ins. Alan 724-433-2183.

FENCING
DON'S FENCE chain link, wood, vinyl, hand rails & all your fencing needs. Free est. rea. rates. 724-929-3218.

FIREWOOD
SPLIT/ seasoned, cherry/ hardwood. 1/2 cord del. $65. B.V. 724-816-2630.

SPLIT, SEASONED 1/2 cord, $65 full cord, $130 Call 724-640-5277.

FLOOR INSTALLATION
ROBERT HANNAN vinyl, hardwood, carpeting, ceramic. Ins. Guaranteed. 724-929-4330.

FUNDRAISING
STAR FUNDRAISING, INC. Subs, cookie dough, fresh/ frozen pizzas. All groups. 724-547-8008.

GLASS BLOCK WINDOWS
PANELS done professionally to fit any opening. Very reasonable. 724-379-4255.

HAULING
CLEAN OUT whole house, basements, stores, attics, sheds. Scrap metal hauled. 724-483-2140.

PRIDE HAULING & Contracting Services All Types of Hauling Clean-Outs/Roll-off Dump Truck Service 724-938-2680 412-780-0862 Credit Cards Accepted

GENERAL hauling & clean-ups, cellars, garages, yards. Dep. Rich 724-872-0865, 1-800-566-4167.

ESTATES, basements, attics & garages cleaned. Free est. Joe 724-258-5809.

Call The Classified Department Today To Place An Ad

HOME REPAIR
HANDYMAN MATTERS Bonded & Insured. BBB. 724-258-4884

INSURANCE
GOOD CREDIT - BAD CREDIT FOR AUTO RATES We know our rates Best YOU QUALIFY WITH US Let Us Quote You RAMSDELL AGENCY 724-929-4200.

LAWN MOWER REPAIR
BECK'S Repair all makes of push & riding mowers, rototillers, saws, snow blowers, gas & diesel farm tractors. Pick up & del. 724-258-4140.

LAWN SERVICE
LAWNS & shrubbery cut, trimmed, mulch, garden tilling. Free est. Ins. 724-258-3407.

MASONRY CONCRETE
John Yurkovich Masonry. Retaining walls, sidewalks, patios, steps, driveways, chimneys, garages. Fully ins., free est. Over 11 yrs in business. 724-684-5014, 724-628-7349.

MOVING & STORAGE
FRETZ TRANSFER 724-684-8499, 724-929-6869 & Fretz Mini Warehouse 724-684-6602, Monessen. Local moving & storage.

PAINTING
BOB's - Professional painting at rea. prices. New home const., ptg. & staining. Sr. Cit. Disc. Fully ins. 724-929-6595, 929-9313.

M.V. PAINTING - Int. & ext. Experienced & Insured. Free est. Will beat any reasonable price. 724-929-1620.

724-929-4200

PAINTING CONT
INT. EXT. painting. Exp'd., insured, free est., affordable Michael Lundy 724-292-9004.

AFFORDABLE Ptg. Int. & ext. Free est. Fully ins. Mike Kanski. 724-872-6022.

PLASTERING
PLASTERING - New/repair work. Hardcoat/drywall fin. Barry Winters. 724-929-9765.

PLUMBING
GRECO PLUMB. Sewers opened, sewer, gas, water line installation, basement water proofing, water tanks. Prof. service. 724-684-4439, 379-8197.

NEAL PLUMBING Registered Master, professional service. Fully ins. 724-258-0113.

QUICK RESPONSE Plumbing. Heat/AC. Registered Master. Certified gas line Installer. Expert sewer cleaning. Ins. 866-732-4433 or 724-258-7724

PLUMBING CONT
WATER HEATER problems? Call Tom Patterson your Rheem Water Heater Specialist. 724-929-6797

LENDWAY & SONS - general plumbing. 724-348-4644, 724-379-4962.

BRADLEY PLUMBING new/repair, lowest rates 412-583-2909 724-797-0677

REMODELING
PAGER BROS. Remodeling. Int. & Ext. 20 yrs. exp. Ins. 724-931-0521.

ROOFING
A.T. KOURY new roofs, roof repairs, licensed & insured, chimney work, gutters, free est. 724-684-6042.

LARRY'S CONT. reasonable, reliable, new roofs & repairs, gutters cleaned, prompt service. 724-483-3117.

PROFESSIONAL ROOFING/ house restoration. Skasko Construction 724-258-2473.

ROOFING CONT
LENDWAY & SONS ROOFING, siding, decks & additions. 724-348-4644, 724-379-4962.

AMERICAN Roofing & Remodeling. roofing, vinyl siding, garages & additions built. 724-379-7868.

D&T CONSTRUCTION roofing, siding, additions, emergency roof repairs. Free est. Ins. 724-239-2183.

SEPTIC CLEANING
MG SEPTIC & Drain Cleaning. Fair Prices. For professional service you won't want to miss! Call Joseph Manack anytime. 724-929-8152.

SMALL ENGINE REPAIR
8G'S Small Engine Repair. Tune-ups & free est. on lawn mowers, weed trimmers, snow blowers. 724-330-2049.

SNOW REMOVAL
SNOW REMOVAL & Ice Control. Cain's Contracting. Exp. Rea. Reliable. 724-489-4131.

STORAGE
A+ MINI STORAGE
5X10 $35 - 5X15 $40
10X10 $50 - 10X15 $55
10X20 $60. + Sales Tax.
805 Liberty Ave.
N. Charleroi.
724-483-6000.

TREE REMOVAL
TREE-CO big tree specialist. Trimming, log & stump removal. 724-929-4337.

TREE PRO- tree removal specialist. Best deals! Free est. Henry. 724-929-6097

3G'S TREES & stump removal. Free est., fully ins. 724-489-4180, 724-483-6205.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PICTURES TO FEATURE YOU

on the job performing your service, as shown above. You can mail photos to The Valley Independent Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa 15062 or email to lmajor@tribweb.com (please include your name & business)